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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

34
JAN

$1.50

HIGH SOCIETY

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PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
NARRATION/CHARACTER VOICES

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www.behindthepanels.com

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PUBLIC DOMAIN
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GarageBand, Apple Inc.

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Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

visit us @
www.cerebusdownloads.com

A Note from the Publisher

I looked at the number of this issue and I did a double-take. We're almost at issue forty!! Last New Year we hadn't even started with the Swords of Cerebus Volumes, or even begun thinking of the cards and the portfolio. It's been a very busy year.

In the back of this issue, there are lots of interesting things. First of all, we have a new artist for our back-up feature -- Bill Loebs. Dave and I first met him in London, Ontario a few years back at the London Annual Fantasy and Media Festival (LAFF). We were both impressed by his story that appeared in Nucleus, No. 1 ("Abortion") and I have been thinking about ways for Bill's work to be seen by more people ever since then. The obvious solution was to try and publish him ourselves. It's also nice when ever I can get the chance to encourage another writer/artist at his craft.

We have gotten very little response so far to Brent Alan Richardson's two-part story "The Salamanders" which appeared in the back of No. 32 and No. 33. What are your feelings? Would you like to see more? I'd really appreciate hearing from you. I'd also like to hear how you feel about having these back-up stories in Cerebus.

Also, in this issue, there is an ad for the pins that the JayCees are putting out this year. The New York Chapter has been using Cerebus as their mascot, this year. (With our permission, of course.) Dave and I received our pins in the mail with the ad, and I must say that they are really beautiful. I wear mine on my jacket. The colour on them is really the best that I've ever seen. It is obvious that someone has spent some time on these. If you like pins, I'd suggest you look into this. They are a real bargain at five dollars.

That's about it for this issue. I'll see you all again next month!!

Deni

CEREBUS

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'three days before'

WELL, DIP ME IN BREAD CRUMBS AND QUICK-FRY ME FO' THE **HOLIDAYS**-- IF IT AIN'T MUH OLD FRIEND **CEREBUS**...

WHEN AH READ Y'ADVERTISEMENT OVER THE FRONT GATE, AH SAID, "ELROD, YOU OWE IT TO Y'BUNNY-SUITED LITTLE AMIGO TO DROP IN AND **CONSOLE** HIM ABOUT HIS DEFECTIVE PLUMBING..."

URINARY, THAT IS. AH FIGURED Y'ALL NEEDED SOMEONE WHO WOULDN'T "TEE-HEE" ABOUT Y'"WEE-WEE," SON.

THIS--AH SAY-- THIS SHORE IS THE PERFECT HOTEL FOR A LITTLE GET-TOGETHER...

DID Y'ALL GET THE NAMEPLATES DONE? IF THERE'S ONE THING THE LAST RULER OF A DYING RACE ABSOLUTELY ***DETESTS***...

baf!

TAXI!

YES, M'LORD? OFF TO THE ***RAM'S LORDS TAVERN***, M'LORD?

ACTUALLY, THIS ***ALBINO*** CAME TO IEST TO MAKE *TROUBLE* FOR CEREBUS ...

MM.

JUST BEFORE HE FELL ASLEEP, HE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND ASKED CEREBUS TO GIVE YOU THIS FIFTY CROWNS TO PUT HIM ON THE NEXT BOAT GOING ANYWHERE FAR AWAY...

VERY GOOD M'LORD ...

CEREBUS *CAN* TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF. THE *TRICK* IS TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET THROUGH THE *DOOR* ...

M'LORD CEREBUS.

"IN HIS TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR HE WILL LAY WASTE TO THE RICH AND POWERFUL; BENDING THEM TO HIS WILL..."

"THE SHADOW OF THE EARTH-PIG WILL SPREAD FROM THE CENTER AND A NEW AGE WILL DAWN."

IF THAT'S *SUPPOSED* TO BE POETRY, IT DOESN'T *RHYME.*

NOT POETRY...

PROPHECY.

I SEE YOU DON'T *REMEMBER* ME...

MY NAME IS *MACMUFIN*...

BRAN MACMUFIN...

CEREBUS ONLY *LEANED* AGAINST YOUR STATUE...

IT WAS AN *ACCIDENT!*

CEREBUS DIDN'T *MEAN* TO BREAK IT *

* CEREBUS No.5

ON THE CONTRARY, M'LORD YOU DID WHAT YOU FELT **HAD** TO BE DONE FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF **PIGTDOM...**

WE LIVE TO SERVE THE EARTH-PIG... YOU HAVE BUT TO **COMMAND** AND ...

CEREBUS IS **BUSY** RIGHT NOW...

IF CEREBUS COMES UP WITH ANY GOOD COMMANDS, HE'LL LET YOU KNOW.

I QUITE UNDERSTAND, M'LORD -- I'M IN ROOM ONE-FIFTY FIVE OF THE WEST WING ...

WHENEVER YOU'RE **READY**

IT'S A **TEST.**

SURE. **THAT'S** IT. ASTORIA IS TRYING TO PROVE TO CEREBUS THAT HE CAN'T STAY OUT OF **TROUBLE**

THE FIRST TIME CEREBUS LET'S ONE OF THESE JERKS TALK HIM INTO SOMETHING

BAM!

SHE'LL BE THERE LIKE A **SHOT!**

"I TOLD YOU SO! I TOLD YOU SO!"

"NYAH! NYAH!"

JUST WAIT'LL SHE GETS BACK AND FINDS OUT CEREBUS STAYED OUT OF TROUBLE.

WE'LL **SEE** WHO GETS THE LAST "NYAH-NYAH", ASTORIA.

THE **TRICK** IS TO MAKE YOURSELF COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE...

WITH CEREBUS IN **HERE** AND ALL OF THEM OUT **THERE**...

SLAM

TROUBLE IS GOING TO HAVE A JOB FINDING ...

GAH!

HAVE YOU -- I SAY -- HAVE YOU GOT A **TOWEL**, SON? I SEEM TO'VE GOTTEN M'SELF **IRRIGATED**...

...**SOAKED**, THAT IS. HEH-HEH -- I'M DAMPER THAN A BUSINESSMAN'S ARM-PITS DURING A TAX AUDIT

THAT'S A **WITTY**, SON

IF WE'RE GONNA BE ROOMIES Y'ALL ARE GONNA HAVE TO PAY **ATTENTION**...

I DON'T -- I SAY -- I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO **SUB-TITLES**...

LISTEN, ALBINO.
CEREBUS IS TRYING TO KEEP HIMSELF OUT OF TROUBLE, SEE?
AND SINCE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, CEREBUS HAS NO CHOICE. KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED AND TRY TO LAND HEAD FIRST...
TROUBLE? THE ALBINO IS THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES, DESPOT!
THE GOVERNOR OF THE LEGISLATURE WAS JUST A SAMPLE...
GAH!
I'M GOING TO KILL EVERYONE WHO EVEN TRIES TO HELP YOU, AARDVARK
YOU'RE FINISHED!

SEIZING HIS ROACH-ROPE, THE DARKNIGHT DREADNOUGHT HAULS HIMSELF UP TOWARDS THE LEDGE ABOVE HIM.

=UMPH= HIS FOE IS ASTOUNDED, STARING AFTER THE MOON ROACH **HELPLESSLY**...

...HOLDING A LIFE-SIZE REPLICA OF THE **MOON ROACH'S** FORMER WARD =UMPH=

TWO-FISTED BUNKY THE ALBINO... IT'S A CLEVER RUSE BUT TRANSPARENT TO THE HOAX-WARY **LUNAR AVENGER**...

ALL RIGHT.

THAT **DOES** IT...

YOU'VE PUSHED CEREBUS TOO **FAR** THIS TIME, BUG...

CEREBUS IS COMING AFTER YOU, BUG... THIS TIME YOU'RE ...

NOW, SON, DON'T WORRY Y'SELF ABOUT OLD **ELROD**... Y'ALL JUST RUN ALONG AND HAVE *FUN*...

I'LL-- I *SAY*-- I'LL JUST CHECK OUT THE AVAILABLE **HENS** IN THIS L'IL OLD CHICKEN COOP AND SEE WHAT'S **HATCHING**...

GET IT, SON? "**HENS**"? "**HATCHING**"?

THAT'S A **DOUBLE WITTY**-- *TRIPLE* IF YOU COUNT THE "COOP."

WHAT'S THE **USE**? THE BUG IS RIGHT.

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS BUMP OFF EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO **HELP** CEREBUS ...

CEREBUS IS **FINISHED.**

SURELY-- AH *SAY*-- **SURELY** YOU JEST, SON.

WHY-- UNTIL YOU CAME TO IEST, IT WASN'T NOTHIN' BUT AN OLD-FASHIONED, *DODDERING* RELIC OF A CITY-STATE.., ***MORIBUND,*** THAT IS ...

SINCE YOU *ARRIVED,* THE CHURCH HAS TURNED AROUND SO FAST ON THE QUESTION OF *OUTSIDE INVESTMENT* HIS HOLINESS AND FIVE TIERS OF HIS BUREAUCRACY HAVE ***WHIPLASH***... PAINS IN THE *NECK,* THAT IS...

...ADD THAT TO THE WAY Y'ALL ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY BROUGHT ***THE INQUISITION*** TO ITS KNEES...

...AND Y'ALL'VE GOT MORE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP YOU THAN A NEAR-SIGHTED BANK TELLER WITH A SPILLED TILL...

HEH!-- IF THAT OLD BUG WANTS TO KILL ALL OF YOUR *SUPPORTERS,* HE'LL HAVE TO LINE 'EM UP AND USE A *SEMI-AUTOMATIC CROSS-BOW, SON...*

YOU JUST *MADE ALL OF THAT UP!*

WHY, NOT AT ALL, SON...

klik KLAK

I'M BACK, CEREBUS, DEAR ...

CEREBUS DEAR?!

I SAY CEREBUS DEAR?!

WHY--I GET IT NOW...

HUNH!

SO THAT'S IT!

Y'ALL GOT Y'SELF A LITTLE BLUSHIN' MAGNOLIA BLOSSOM OF Y'VERY OWN... SWEETIE-PIE THAT IS...

THAT'S WHY Y'ALL DIDN'T WANT ELROD AS YOUR ROOMIE...

HEH. HEH. HEH,

WHY THAT'S ADORABLE, SON!

THAT'S-- I SAY-- THAT'S DOWNRIGHT CUTE...

IT'S OKAY, SON-- Y'DON'T --I SAY-- Y'DON'T HAVE TO DROP THE WALL OF TSI ON ELROD THE ALBINO ...

NOSIREE.

I MANAGED ...TO...

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM WHILST AH DISCRETELY SLIP FROM VIEW...

AND LEAVE YOU AND Y'DIMINUTIVE ROMEO TO Y'COHABITATIONAL BLISS

KLIK-CLACK

WELL, WE *ARE* FULL OF SURPRISES **AREN'T** WE...?

JUST A MINUTE!-- CEREBUS CAN **EXPLAIN** THIS!

I *DOUBT* IT, BUT GO AHEAD AND **TRY**...

HOW **DID** YOU MANAGE TO CULTIVATE THE MOST *CHARISMATIC* SWORDSMAN IN ESTARCION AS A FRIEND?

FIRST OF ALL, IT ISN'T CEREBUS' FAULT... CEREBUS HAD EVERY INTENTION OF STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN...

YOU'VE **GOT** TO BE KIDDING.

ELROD IS QUITE A *CULT-FIGURE* IN *IEST*...

EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH THE PEASANTS AND WORKERS...

SO CEREBUS ***DIDN'T*** CAUSE TROUBLE BY HAVING HIM HERE?

TROUBLE? I ONLY WISH YOU'D HAD THE GOOD SENSE TO STROLL THROUGH THE LOBBY WITH HIM...

IT WOULD'VE DONE YOUR ***REPUTATION*** A WORLD OF GOOD...

TARIM.

BUT CEREBUS ***DID*** STAY OUT OF TROUBLE ...

YES. YES, YOU DID.

YOU SAID CEREBUS COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF AND CEREBUS PROVED YOU ***WRONG!***

IT MUST BE QUITE A *BURDEN* FOR YOU -- BEING *RIGHT* ALL THE TIME.

CEREBUS TOOK CARE OF ***EVERYTHING!*** *EVERY-LAST-LITTLE-PROBLEM!*

YOU DESERVE A MEDAL ...

YOU REALLY DO...

DARN ***RIGHT.***

CEREBUS WOULD *ALSO* LIKE AN ***APOLOGY.***

AN APOLOGY?

SO YOU TOLD THE DESK CLERK TO CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS AND THEN CAME BACK HERE TO TWIDDLE YOUR THUMBS FOR A FEW HOURS...

BIG DEAL!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ASTORIA, CEREBUS WAS BUSY... FOR... EVERY...

CEREBUS?

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S...

YOU DID TELL THE DESK CLERK TO CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS ...

DIDN'T YOU?

CEREBUS?!

WONDERFUL!

THIS IS JUST PERFECT!

I'M AT THE LEGISLATURE TRYING TO MAKE **YOU** RICH AND YOU'RE UP HERE **SABOTAGING** ME!!

AND, OF COURSE, YOU EXPECT **ME** TO GO AND **FIX** EVERYTHING, NOW...

UNDO ALL OF **YOUR** DAMAGE

CLEAN UP **YOUR** MESS

SOLVE **YOUR** PROBLEMS ...

WELL, I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT **NOW** THAT I'M **NOT** GOING TO TAKE THIS FOREVER

SLAM

CEREBUS HAS A FEELING THIS MEANS HE'S NOT GOING TO GET AN **APOLOGY.**

LATER.

SNFX
OH.
YOU'RE BACK.
SO. HOW'D IT GO?

QUIT CLOWNING AROUND, ASTORIA...
DID YOU FIX EVERYTHING OR DIDN'T YOU?
"DEAR ASTORIA..."
"NEVER IN MY TWENTY YEARS OF DEALINGS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF IEST HAVE I BEEN TREATED SO SHABBILY..."

"YOUR REQUEST, THEREFORE FOR AN EXTENSION ON YOUR LOAN PAYMENT IS..."

"... DENIED."

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT PATIENCE WITH ANYTHING AS ***MUNDANE*** AS A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION

SUFFICE TO SAY -- YOU'VE JUST COST US SOME MONEY ...

A ***GREAT DEAL*** OF MONEY...

FIVE-***HUNDRED***-CROWNS!

THAT IS -- FIVE HUNDRED CROWNS RIGHT ***NOW*** ... IN A FEW DAYS, WITHOUT A MAJOR BANK TO VOUCH FOR YOU ... FOR ***US***...

...IT ***COULD*** BE AS MUCH AS A THOUSAND...

SO? WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE MONEY?

WELL, THAT'S QUITE A **PROBLEM**... ANY ATTEMPT TO BORROW MORE MONEY TO MEET OUR LOAN OBLIGATIONS IS GOING TO HURT OUR CREDIT RATING.

OH.

CASH **FLOW** IS THE KEY...

THIS WAS PRECISELY THE **WORST** TIME TO MAKE ONE OF OUR BANKS *NERVOUS*... SINCE OUR *CASH-ON-HAND* WAS DEPLETED BY LORD JULIUS DUMPING ALL OF HIS SEPRAN GOLD ON THE OPEN MARKET...

BY THE WAY, DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT MONEY I GAVE YOU?

THE THOUSAND CROWNS? AYE. CEREBUS HAS IT RIGHT...

...HERE

FIVE HUNDRED WILL DO...

FOR NOW.

CEREBUS IS GOING OUT FOR A **DRINK.**

BANK of TEST

SLAM

CLIK
CLAK

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM!

YES!?

I FEEL ABOUT AS FOOLISH AS A *DERMATOLOGIST* WITH *ZITS*...

HEH HEH

AH FORGOT TO GIVE THE BOY HIS ***INVITATION***

I-- I'LL TAKE IT.

Y'ALL BE SURE AND TELL HIM ELROD'S LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HIM THAR.

YES, I WILL.

SLAM

INVITATION? WHAT SORT OF INVITATION...

...WOULD...

Lord Julius presents

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His Highness KING ELROD

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(lord julius' nominee to be the

next ranking diplomatic representative

of PALNU in IEST)

next; two days before

LIMITED-EDITION CEREBUS PIN

The Jaycees is a national leadership training organization for young men. Each year, state, regional and local chapters issue enamelled pins which the members wear and trade. Many pins are quite sought-after and almost none ever circulates beyond Jaycee circles.

This year the Jaycees in Region 5, District 6 of the New York Jaycees have taken Cerebus as their mascot with the permission of Dave and Deni Sim. He appears on the District stationary, awards, newsletter and now on the pin. Above you can see the pin's design. the drawing does not really do it justice but the pin will not copy well due to the dark colors. The drawing does show the art by Dave Sim which is the basis of the pin.

- 1.5" Diam.
- Gold Lettering
- Black Rim
- Red Center

With the kind permission of the Sims we are making a small quantity of these pins available to collectors. Price is $5.00 each, postpaid.

- THIS IS A HIGH-QUALITY PIN — BRIGHT ENAMEL COLORS ON HEAVY METAL. IT IS NOT A CHEAP PINBACK. 2-WEEK MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IF NOT SATISFIED.
- THE HEAD OF CEREBUS WAS DRAWN BY DAVE SIM SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS PIN (AND THE MANUFACTURER DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF TRANSFERRING IT LINE BY LINE —LIKE WE SAID THIS IS A HIGH-QUALITY PIN). THIS IS NOT A RIP-OFF AS THE SIMS WILL RECIEVE ROYALTIES.
- LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE AS LOCAL JAYCEES (FOR OBVIOUS REASONS) GET FIRST CRACK AT BUYING A COPY OF THEIR OWN PIN.
- PROFITS GO TO THE DISTRICT 6 JAYCEES TO HELP WITH OPERATING EXPENSES (NOBODY'S GETTING RICH OFF THIS)

Money Orders preferred, checks must clear

Make payable to: DISTRICT 6 JAYCEES
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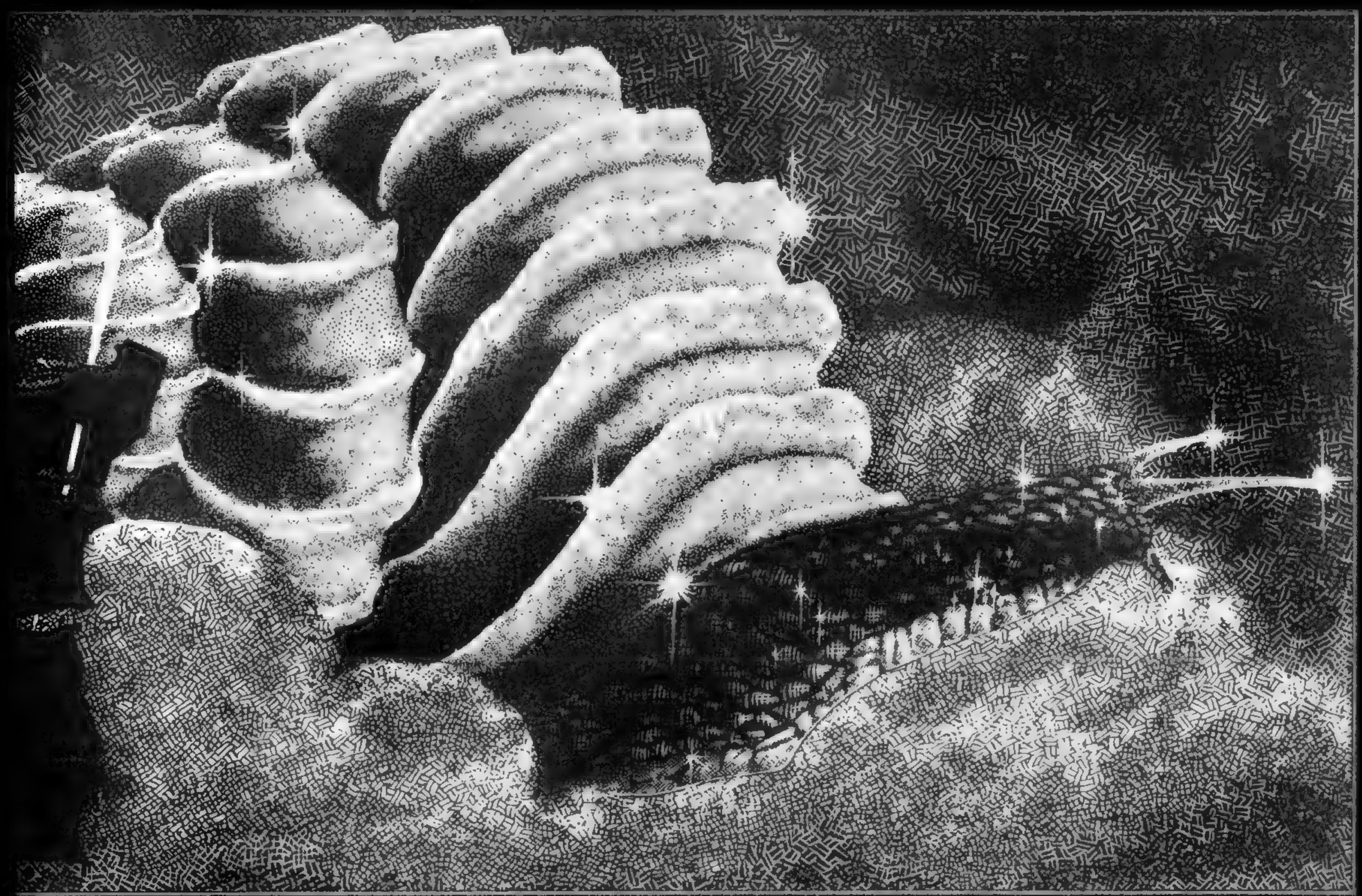

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A UNIQUE STORY

ON THE SEVENTEENTH OF APRIL, 1789, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, PRINTER, DIED PEACEFULLY AND WAS PUT TO REST. AT AGE 84 HE HAD LIVED A LONG AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE AND WAS WIDELY MOURNED.
Welcome to Heaven
THE ROMAN EMPIRE HAD BEEN OVER FOR THE PAST ELEVEN HUNDRED YEARS...
A COMEDY OF DEATH
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY
©1981
Wm Francis Lobs

HUMM...

NOT A **BAD** TURNOUT, CONSIDERING... HALF OF PHILADELPHIA MUST BE DOWN THERE... THOUGH I DID ASK THE CHILDREN FOR A **SMALL, QUIET** FUNERAL.

OH, WELL. SUCH THINGS ARE REALLY FOR THE LIVING!

RATHER **IMPRESSIVE** ACTUALLY.

... AS WE LAY TO REST OUR BROTHER **BENJAMIN** WE SHOULD NOT GRIEVE, FOR WE KNOW THAT HE GOES TO A BETTER, HAPPIER PLACE... NOW IF WE ALL OPEN OUR HYMNALS TO PAGE 124 WE CAN SING "NEARER MY GOD TO THEE"... ALL RISE.....

AS A **SCIENTIST** I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE MAKING OBSERVATIONS ON ALL THIS... SUBJECT IS WITHOUT PAIN, SOUND OF WIND AND LIMB..

SUBJECT RETAINS USE OF HIS FACULTIES, SIGHT, ETC.. AND HIS **SQUIDITY**... AT LEAST AS FAR AS CAN BE SHEWN...

WELCOME TO HEAVEN, DR. FRANKLIN!

AH... A SPRIG OF CHARCOAL! I CAN TAKE PROPER NOTES ON MY CUFF...

...THE SUBJECT IS DRESSED IN SMALL CLOTHES, YET...

...IS WITHOUT SHOES OR STOCKINGS... AND ASCENDS A MARBLE STAIRWAY...

AT THE TOP OF TH S STAIRWAY STANDS A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN IN A TOGA...

....NO ANIMAL LIFE IS APPARENT...

...WHICH IS IN...HMPH! ....**VILE** REPAIR... HE APPEARS TO BE IN HIS LATE THIRTIES, A MOST PLEASANT DEVELOPMENT!

...THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE WHOLE..... A **BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN IN A TOGA!?!**

MY DEAR LADY... YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO SEE SUCH A VISION IN SUCH A PLACE.

GIGGLE

LIKE, IT'S A REAL TRIP TO SEE YOU, TOO, Y'KNOW... LIKE WOW!

I BEG YOUR...

I MEAN, LIKE I FLIPPED OUT ON YOU IN SCHOOL AN' STUFF AN' HERE YOU ARE... IT'S LIKE GROOVY, Y'KNOW?

DOES... ANYONE ...HERE.. SPEAK... ...ENGLISH..?

WOW... I MEAN, IT'S JUST LIKE TALKING TO DYLAN OR ELVIS OR JANIS OR SOMETHING.. I MEAN... WOW... KARMA, MAN... HERE'S YER TOGA!

TOGA?

YEAH, IT'S A PART OF THE WHOLE SCENE HERE, MAN... LIKE, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

UM... PERHAPS LATER...?

OH, SURE, MAN... IT'S COOL...

THIS ARCHITECTURE IS STARTING... AS IF JEFFERSON HAD A NIGHT MARE... BUT IT SEEMS RATHER PAGAN FOR HEAVEN....

...AND AREN'T THOSE MEN BEING CRUCIFIED?

OH, YEAH.... GOES ON HERE ALL THE TIME... POWER TRIP Y'KNOW... BUMMER...

MY NAME'S DEBBE BARNES... BUT MY REAL NAME'S SUNSHINE AQUARIUS... C'N YOU DIG IT?

I... UH...

YOU LIKE T' BALL, HUH? I MEMBER READING YOU WERE COOL THAT WAY... I'D OFFER T'BALL YOU, MAN... BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED....

OH...?

YEH, 'CAUSE THAT'S HOW I GOT OFFED... I O.D.'ED ON HORSE AN' ACID AN' COKE WHEN I WAS BALLIN' THESE SEVEN DUDES IN THE HAIGHT.. NOW I CAN'T BALL ANYBODY FOR A MILLENIUM.. STONE DRAG, MAN... WONDER IF THAT'S LONGER THAN TEN YEARS..?

...WOULDN'T HAVE ANY SPARE DOPE ON YOU, HUH?

UH, I'M AFRAID NOT...

S'ALL RIGHT, MAN.. NO SWEAT.. I'M COOL. THIS WHOLE SCENE IS JUST ONE LONG DOPE FAMINE... NOW, WHAT'S TH' LINE I GOTTA...? OH YEAH... BENJAMIN FRANKLIN... BEHOLD THE LORD THY GOD.!! .... OR SOMETHING...

CLOSE ENOUGH, DEBBIE. NOW, GO MEDITATE ON GOOD AND EVIL FOR A WEEK... DOCTOR FRANKLIN, PLEASE COME UP.. I'VE SO LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING YOU...

MY LORD.. I'M MOST HONORED... BUT THOSE MEN DOWN THERE... THE ONES YOU'VE HAD CRUCIFIED... WHY...?

BEN... I CAN CALL YOU BEN, RIGHT? YOU CALL ME MARCUS... 'KAY? THOSE GUYS ARE WICKED AND EVIL... DON'T WORRY ABOUT 'EM.

WELL, BUT MARCUS... MARCUS? YOU SEEM SO FAMILIAR... SHOULD I KNOW YOU?

WELL, IT'S BEEN A THOUSAND YEARS, BUT IF YOU'VE HAD ANY CLASSICAL EDUCATION...

CLASSICAL... I STILL DON'T...

...OR STUDIED THE HISTORY OF ...STOICISM?

STOICISM? MARCUS... MARCUS AURELIUS — THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER EMPEROR OF ROME?

PLEASED T' MEET YA, BEN!

MARCUS AURELIUS?!

SIR, YOU HAVE ALWAYS HAD MY MOST PROFOUND ADMIRATION AND RESPECT! MEETING YOU IS JUST LIKE... LIKE MEETING ELVIS!

WHY, THANK YOU, DOCTOR. I'M PLEASED YOU'RE PLEASED. I'M SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZED ME FROM THE COINS... WITH THE NEW BEARD AND ALL...

NICE T'BE REMEMBERED BY A FELLOW PHILOSOPHE...

I LOVED THE STONE BY THE WAY!

"...RECOGNIZED ME FROM THE COINS..."

WHOEVER THAT MAY BE!

...WHY THANK YOU! BUT... ER... MARCUS... IF YOU'VE BEEN GOD FOR THE LAST 1500 YEARS, FORGIVE MY CURIOUSITY BUT...

...WHO WAS GOD BEFORE THAT? FAIR QUESTION. SOME BIG ILLITERATE WARCHIEF, INDO-EUROPEAN, I THINK. HE WAS DRUNK MOST OF THE TIME... EXPLAINS A LOT OF EARLY HISTORY, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT... HEH HEH

AND BEFORE THAT?

AN EGYPTIAN I THINK. THERE WAS QUITE A TURNOVER

I CAN IMAGINE!

ANYHOO, ONE DAY THE WARCHIEF JUST DISAPPEARED. GONE. IT WAS AN OPEN-THRONE SCENARIO AND I WAS IN CHARGE...

NOT MY CHOICE, BELIEVE ME!

IF YOU'VE READ MY "MEDITATIONS" YOU KNOW I DESPISE POWER I WANTED TO BE A POET... BUT STOICISM TEACHES US TO ACCEPT OUR FATE, AND MINE WAS TO BE EMPEROR... SO I DID IT. NOW, SUDDENLY, HERE WAS THIS GOD-THING...

RIGHT! BUT I ACCEPTED TH' RESPONSIBILITY! AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, BEN... I'M TIRED... SO VERY TIRED... I WANT TO REST... I WANT A REPLACEMENT...

WELL, YOU C'N IMAGINE MY FEELINGS...

BEN, I WANT YOU TO BE GOD.

OF COURSE. NO SANE MAN WISHES TO BE A DIETY!

WHAT?

MY LORD...MARCUS... I AM NOT **WORTHY**...

NONSENSE, BEN. OF COURSE, YOU'LL BEGIN AS MY ASSISTANT...LEARN THE **ROPES**... WHILE I ASSEMBLE THE SCENARIOS, PLANNING-WISE...

AN HONOR, **LORD**.

"...ASSEMBLE THE SCENARIOS..."

I THINK I'LL START YOU OUT ON SOMETHING **EASY**. PUNISHMENTS... YES, THAT'S THE TICKET!

PUNISHMENTS? BUT, SIR...

...I FEAR I AM IN NO WISE WELL-SUITED TO...

YOU'LL GET THE **HANG** OF IT, BEN. I DID. MAKE YOU SICK AT FIRST, BUT THEN YOU REALIZE THAT TO LIVE IS TO SUFFER. SO IT DOESN'T **MATTER**. BESIDES, THEY'RE NOT STOICS, ANY OF 'EM.

WELL, IT IS A VERY WORTHY AND STERN PHILOSOPHY, CERTAINLY...

BEN, IT'S PERFECT. NOT TO BE AN IDEALIST BUT WHEN I REALIZED THAT STOICISM WASN'T GOING TO MAKE A COME-BACK...THAT COOL, CLEAR REASON WOULD BE **REPLACED** BY HEATHEN CHRISTIANITY, I BECAME UPSET...

STOICS?

...VERY, VERY UPSET...

RIGHT. **STOICISM** IS THE IDEAL FAITH-PHILOSOPHY. I'M SURE YOU AGREE?

IT WAS IN THE 14TH CENTURY I THINK, THAT I FINALLY **KNEW** THAT HUMANITY HAD REJECTED DUTY AND SELF-CONTROL IN FAVOR OF THE LIGHTER CHRISTIAN VIRTUES OF MERCY AND PLEASURE AND FORGIVENESS.

I THINK YOU **OVER-STATE**, SIR. MANY FOLK IN ALL CULTURES HAVE PRACTICED THE GREAT STOIC VIRTUES...NOT PERHAPS WITH **ROMAN** SINGLEMINDEDNESS, BUT...

THE 14TH CENTURY?

THE 14TH CENTURY WAS THE TIME OF THE **BLACK PLAGUE**, WHEN HALF THE WORLD DIED!

NOW YOU GET THE PICTURE, BEN...

to be continued:

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ACROSS CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni

So, whatever goes around comes around, and now I'm more familiar with Cerebus. The two Swords you sent, plus my own searching out of a run from No. 17 on have rectified my ignorance, and of course, the folks who told me for months that you did good work were right all along. And, of course, mail that comes back "service suspended" from Canada was a victim of the mail strike, but if you're not already reading Canadian comics, how're you supposed to know that they explained that already?

Anyway, I do like Cerebus very much — so much, in fact, that I find myself in the position (very strange for one who grew up and worked in a time when Marvel and DC *were* comics) of really liking only three books out of the hundreds on the market, and having two of those three be Independents. The three? CEREBUS, ELFQUEST, and DAREDEVIL — all, I note, by writer/artists, the age of the Comics Writer having passed into history for the nonce. And if Deni hadn't put me on the mailing list one day, I would probably never have looked at the first two of those three, so I owe you two votes of gratitude (and the Pinis one each).

Now'clearly, I like what you're doing on the surface, month by month, but I was most impressed by the overview Dave has of his work as demonstrated in the comments in the Swords. Anybody can take somebody else's ideas, percolate them through his own brain, and come up with a take-off; some people build whole careers on adaptations. But to use that initial idea as a launching pad for a personal vision is rare. I'm frank to tell you that I didn't see all those minute transitions you talked about between each succeeding issue, but what matters is that you did. And since you did, you don't need me to tell you that that's what separates the men from the boys.

I was turning down invitations to cons for a good year before The Point Man came out, and Kitchener's a little off my regular rounds, so we've never met; but now that the book's off and running, I hope we all end up in the same low dive some night. If you come this way, be sure to give me a call.

Steve Englehart
Oakland, California

We met in 1973, Steve, at Cosmicon in Toronto. I cornered you in one of the artrooms and asked you to comment on T. Casey Brennan's quote; "If you are going to show violence in a comic book, you should show the results of that violence." Your comments, as well as those of other Comic Writers, appeared in Now and Then Times No. 2, a fanzine I edited for Harry Kremer. you probably forgot because I was a lot shorter then and I didn't wash my hair quite as often.

Dear Dave and Deni

Aha! Another project for an upcoming backup feature in a future SWORDS OF CEREBUS — how Captain Cockroach got from guarding the houseplants from the drapes in Beduin nine issues ago to being wounded as the Moon-Roach in Astoria's bedroom in lest? The two "origins" offered schizophrenically by the Moon Roach himself are, at best, suspect. The gardener goodie sounds influenced by Cerebus. When appearing to the Cockroach as the spirit of his dead father, the earth pig went into a spiel about Condominiums (with gardeners) of God in the afterlife to get the Cootie's eight feet of gold. The death of the merchant's father 30 years previous (tell me if you've heard this) was the trauma which turned the unnamed merchant into the Cockroach. Kevitch (with his punchum inna face philosophy) must be an extension of the original Cockroach personality. Perhaps Artemus Strong is an extention of the original merchant persona re-emerging. At any rate, the second origin offered subvocally on the rooftops sounds very close to the one Cerebus offered the Cockroach after discovering the Crazed Caped Cootie had moved his golden horde to his prison cell in No. 12 (which was the best the short grey wonder could come up with on the spur of the moment). Well, I'm sure more revelations will follow.

And, tangentially, I must compliment Elf on her mythical, mystical nature. Not only does she get to avoid the aroma of an avenging aardvark after a hard rain but her loud laughter at his towel-dried forelock causes Cerebus's necklace (which she had been wearing for the four previous pages) to disappear!

About the enclosures. I took some slides of my Official Cerebus Toy (he's a doll!) outside my apartment with my sword in hand. Except for the anterier line (implying a navel which we know the earth-pig lacks) they look pretty authentic. In fact, when I showed the slides to some friends (on a sheet with ones taken at a Halloween superheroes gathering) they asked who was the guy in the aardvark suit! (Echoes of Elrod!) I hope that you like them. I sent a set to Fred and I'll send some prints to Sheila Watson for a job well done.

Dick Glass
1522 Sixth Street No. 2
Santa Monica, Calif. 90401

So far, eagle-eyed Dick Glass is the only one to notice the disappearing necklace (or at least the only one to write about it) Can Dave Sim come up with a definative explanation that will dovetail neatly with the present continuity? Or at least hint that the disappearing necklace is really the first indication of a sub-plot that won't emerge fully until issue 162? No.
Wish we had a no-prize for you, Dick.

Stuffed toys are available from Sheila Watson, Apt. 6-549 Victoria St. S., Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3A8 Canada for $15.00. (certified cheque or money order only please).

His brow furrowed, Cerebus ponders how he is going to get from the suburbs back to the Regency downtown in time for next issue's "Two Days Before". Dick Glass' sword looks on, reflectively.

People,

Cerebus No. 30 and No. 31 were a nice change of pace from what I normally read. I'm not saying they were better or worse than "mainstream" comics, because I don't consider myself a comics "snob", like many other letter writers. In fact, let me make a statement here to everyone within "earshot." Let's all stop this stupid trend to say that comics put out by Marvel, DC, or the other "biggies" are all garbage, simply because they are put out by a major publisher.

I find that enjoyment comes in all forms. Be it Cerebus, Fantastic Four, X-Men, The Spirit, or what have you, I'm out to

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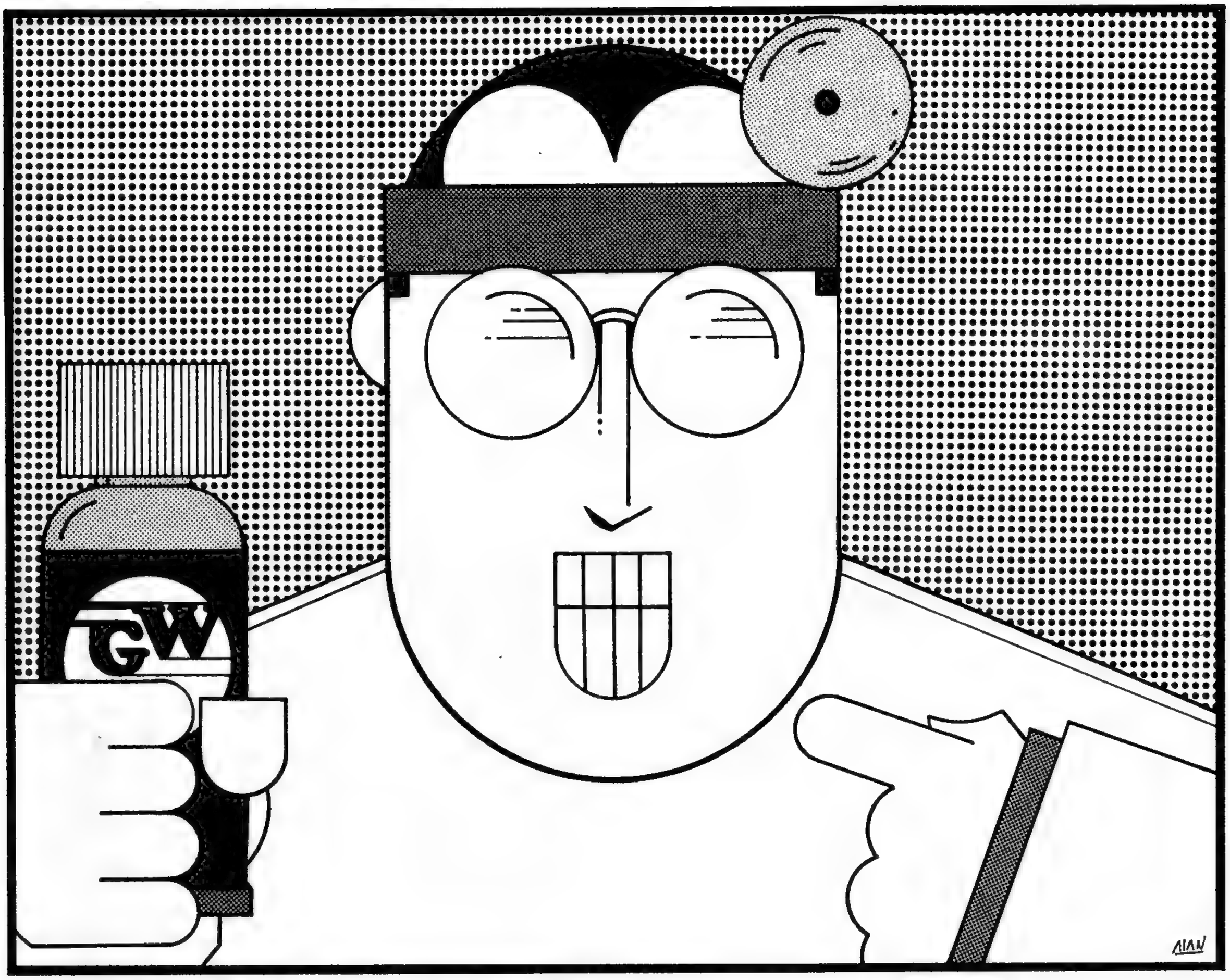

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AARDVARK COMMENT

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enjoy a story. And I don't let comic "prejudices" get in the way. And I hope that the more sensible, true comic fans feel the same way.

But, back to Cerebus.

The advent of Moon Roach was downright clever. I'm sure that Doug and Bill enjoyed it.

It was a deft parody, and soooo on target. I'll be interested in seeing next issues happenings and what they hold for our fave aardvark hero.

Artwise, both issues were well done, though a bit loose on control (facially anyway).

All in all, two very fun issues with the promise of many more to come.

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT 06880

Deni and I get free copies of all the Marvel Comics (thanks to all the Marvel people, by the way). You should watch us argue over who gets to read the X-Men first.

Dear Dave

I've got a better idea — why don't you start drawing Mark Hahn of Socorro, New Mexico, with skinny arms and a long, droopy nose? Let him see how it feels after a long day in the saddle (nose-lash is a common occupational disease among aardvarkian horsemen, er 'varks, er, horsepersons). The new muscular Cerebus is a much better comedic persona than his earlier incarnations — all that obvious strength, coupled with Cerebus' flawed pragmatism and his own competence in his limited field, make his perpetual frustrations even more amusing. An aardvarkian Don Knotts chasing the Cootie just wouldn't be as funny.

(There's also the issue of letting the artist create his work the way he sees fit, but let's not open that can of worms. It's taken some of our greatest American corporations years to drum that silly notion out of the local talent).

By the way, now that we've sent some crack teams of readers up to Kitchener to spread crash padding around the base of every tall building (both of them, including the four-story job) — where's Jaka?

P.S. Watch it with the duck, buddy.

P.P.S. — a sudden nasty thought — re: Jaka, spurned, heart-broken and lovelorn, abused by life and circumstance, weary of battle with the cruel callous world — you wouldn't, Dave, would you? Not the *Cirinists?!*

Richard S. McEnroe
265 Westervelt Ave.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301

A Cirinist, eh? I hadn't though of that. A Cirinist. "Spurned by the earth-pig she loves ...." A Cirinist. Hmmm. I hadn't thought of that.

Dave or Deni

I'm getting mad, I'm getting damned mad. I don't know which one of you is responsible for it, but I'm mad, seriously upset, angry, distressed and MAD! I let it get by with Swords of Cerebus No. 1, let it get by with Swords of Cerebus No. 2, but I can't stand it any longer. Do you have any idea what you are doing to your oldest and staunchest fans, the ones that were with you since Cerebus No. 1. You're hurting us badly. you may even be succeeding in ripping some of us off, those that can afford it. I'm referring to the new story you add to each issue of Swords of Cerebus. I'm not about to pay $4.00 for an eight page story, and some introductions, and some stories I already own. The first two issues I could let slip by because, frankly, the stories weren't all that essential. But now! you're going to do a story explaining what happened between issues No. 20 and No. 22, for 50¢ a page. I'm the one that originally asked for that explanation and now I won't even get to own the answer. Why are you doing this? What have I ever done to you?

Dennis Summers
242 Cedar St. Apt. 4
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

I'm getting damned mad too. Don't you think it would be easy to just reprint the stories and put two cover reproductions on the front and two on the back? Then I would get blamed for just putting out the book to make money. Why not write some introductions, a new story, or at least *do a new cover. I reiterate from last issue. If there's not enough in Swords to make it worth buying, don't buy it.*

Dear Dave and Deni

This letter should have come earlier. I've been meaning to write since issue 19, but I've been too lazy, I guess.

Well, anyways, Cerebus is great. He's the best thing, I think, since Robert Crumbs' Fritz the Cat (which says a lot for me).

Since I was inspired by the masks by David Sellnow and Jeff Christian i decided to make my own. A picture is enclosed. No. to tell you the truth, while I was out in my back-yard one peaceful day, all of a sudden, a mad aardvark swinging a sword came after me. Fortunately, I had my camera to take some pictures before I was knocked out cold.

Concerning Mark Hahn's letter in issue No. 31. I like how Cerebus is now. He looks a lot better than he did in issue 6. For an example, look at number 6, page 3, do you see Cerebus' legs? Do those look like legs that can walk?

Randy Saba
3000 Dona Emilia Dr.
Studio City, CA. 91604

My sentiments exactly, Randy.

The Mad Aardvark of Studio City, photographed by Randy Saba just before he lost consciousness.

Dave and Deni

So I says to myself, "Self, it's about time that you let those folks know of your appreciation for dropping an Earth-pig Born, wet fur and all, into your lap." So Self says, "Yeah, but everybody and their uncle are doing that." So I says, "Ah, what the hell, it's too good of a series to worry about appearing unoriginal. You have to support quality."

I admit my first reaction to seeing your book, a couple of years past, was, "An aardvark? With a sword? Gimme a break." But eventually I decided to sidestep my bias against animal characters in this case because of the continual rumors about the series increasing quality. Imagine mah sooprize. Within a week I had most of the back issues in my covetous hands. Hey, if I find myself to be wrong on something, I don't waste time trying to rationalize my previous view, I just jump on the goddam bandwagon. So I can be as opportunistic as the next slob. So sue me.

From your reader's letters, it seems as if they're all continuity junkies. A little continuity never hurts, but don't be induced into the Marvel-DC version of "intellectualism" that tries to explain all the inconsistancies and ties up every possible and conveivable loose end in the mythos. For myself, the joy of your series isn't so much the depth and interweavings of your plots (though my appreciation for it is there), it is the tapestry of the characterizations, with its superb and nimble-witted dialogue and the true *comic* capturing of facial expressions that immediately reveal the character's basic nature and present mood. Continuity is only the mug, it is the characters and your sense of humor that is the elixir

The badinage and the satire are what make the book click. "Chasing Cootie" has been one of the best efforts yet. I start to laugh when I think about the story, just like I do with the "Cerebus Held Hostage" sequence and it's damn card game. There are many lines from "Chasing Cootie" that ring with hilarity. My favorites are those that say a heap about masculinity, like "You don't often find a man his size with a conscience about social issues," and "You rich broads sure got soft hands." You don't often find a comic that makes you guffaw and ponder simultaneously.

One can get the psuedo "realism" fix of continuity on any soap opera and in any mainstream comic. Where, I say where can you get "unorthodox economic revenge" and "It felt, Artemis said, like I was having an origin."? Where can you get this divine drollery, this wide-awake wit, this esprit de chuckles?

Class, read my lips

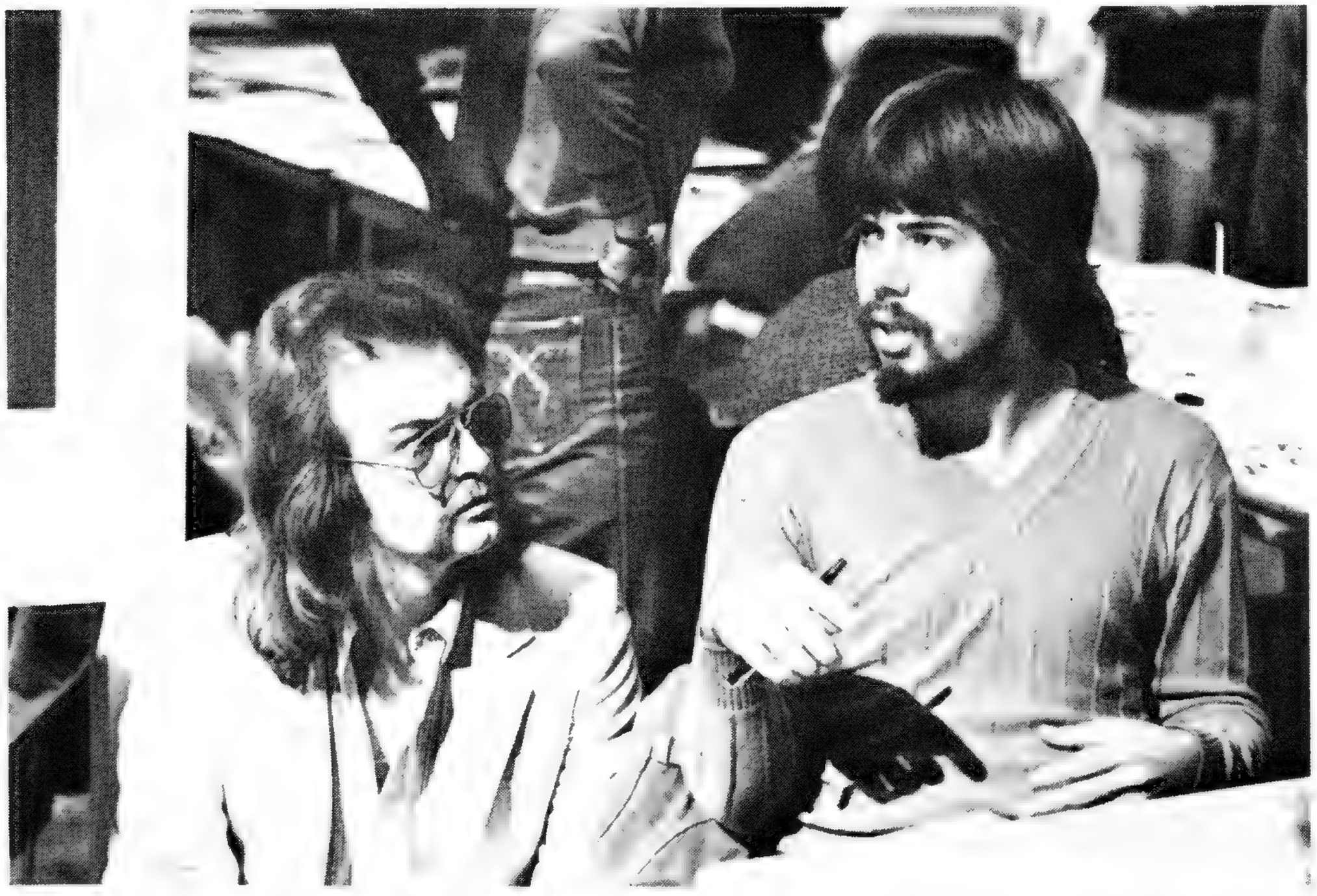
P.S. Do you take requests? I'd like to see some unorthodox aesthetic revenge on "Let them eat ketchup" Reagan and Nuclear Warning Shot Al Haig, and some down home tomfoolery with one of your kingdoms being run by Larry, Moe and Curly. "Say Toots, whose in charge here?"

David Stallman
Box 544
Rocklin, CA 95677

"Gentlemen; read your constitution. It says right there that if "Let them eat ketchup" springs a leak in his left side owing to some aggressive action by manipulated malcontents, if you will, of the Sepran Block Nations, power, control, influence and, if you will, arrogance all shift to the Secretary of State — at least until the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House and the Secretary of Defense can slip out of their astutely knotted restraints." Sorry, I don't know how to draw a West Point haircut.

FANTACON '81

First in a series of five photo's by William C. Johnson of Dave, Deni, and friends at FANTACON in Albany, N.Y., September 18-19, 1981.



Dave Sim, his drawing hand paralized by an offer of a cover-painting for Swords of Cerebus Volume 4, tries to string enough words together to make a full sentance. Barry Smith looks on in puzzlement as he tries to fathom the meaning of, "Cov...Cover...p...painting...? Dah! Daah! Daah!"

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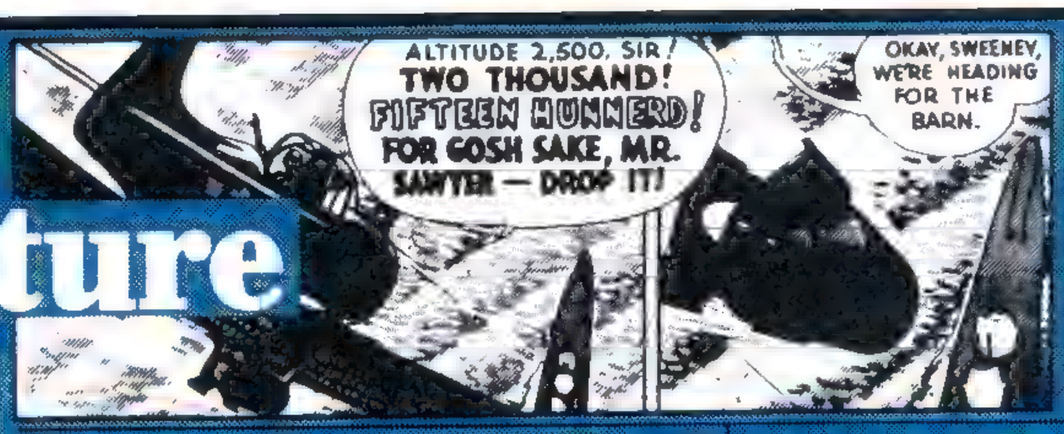

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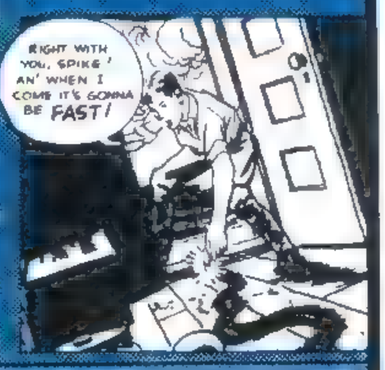

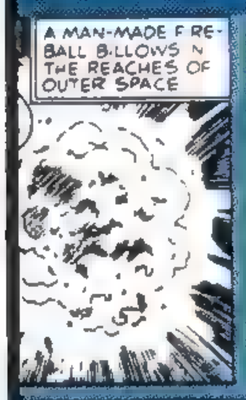

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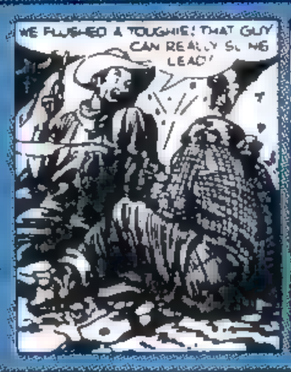

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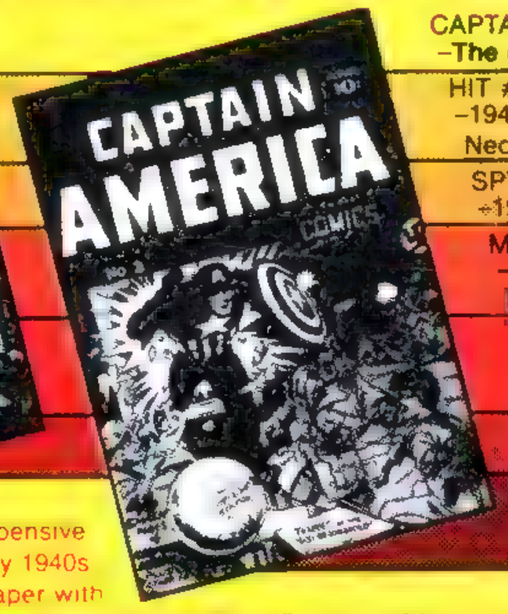

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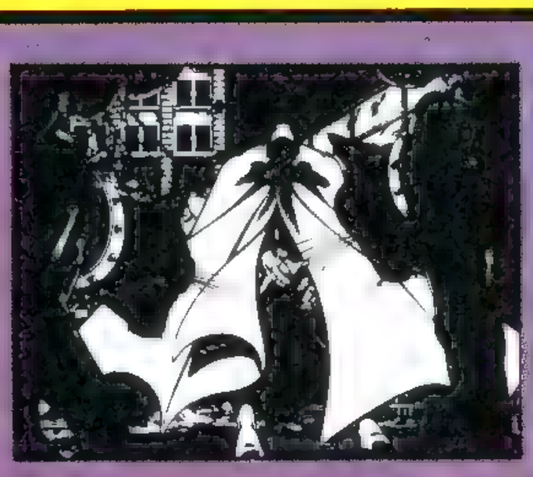

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CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"Deni's "Note from the Publisher" inside front cover of STRANGE BREW."

- Dave Sim

A Note from the Publisher

What you are now holding in your hands is basically a labour of love and a grand experiment perpetrated on you by Michael and I.

I have long admired Michael's work and, as a publisher, could not understand why I didn't see it around more. When it one day occured to me that I had the ability to do something about this - I called him to propose a project. It took longer than either of us expected, with many phone calls (on my part) and many hours of hard work (on Michael's part) before "Strange Brew" became the end result.

It is an experiment, because I was seeking to publish **with** an artist, as opposed to having Michael work **for** me. I strongly believe that the time of the artist/publisher partnership is here.

So what you see before you is a mixed bag of tricks, put together by a talented artist, with some assistance by yours truly. If the experiment is a success or not, will depend largely on you. Let us know what you liked or didn't like, and what you'd like to see more of. Would you like a full-length Wraith book, or how about more new characters? We will do our best to bring to you the kind of stories you want to read. But now is the time to delve into this "Strange Brew".

Let the adventure begin now, with you !!

Deni

Strange Brew is published by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674, Station "C", Kitchener, Ontario. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other journalistic purposes Printed in Canada by Preney Print and Litho, Inc., Windsor, Ontario

"Distributor flier for STRANGE BREW."

- Dave Sim

the "no-more" rains.
have you a protector?
FRANCISCO IT WUZ BIG STORY IN TH' POLICE GAZETTE.
AARDVARK—VANAHEIM PRESENTS:
KIDDIN'—BUT SOME FOLKS MIGHT TAKE IT..
WHOA! SLOW UP, BOYS! I WUZ JUST HEY!! WHATCHOO STAR'N AT, LOU? LOU? LC!
protector?
no.
uh . . . Amie?
. . AT EXCEEDINGLY HIGH SPEEDS!
Amie?
IT DIDN'T WORK THAT WAY

Michael T. Gilbert's "Strange Brew"

The creator of "The Wraith", one of Star* Reach's most popular funny animal characters, will be coming out this December with a 60-page anthology book of his own. "Strange Brew", Michael T. Gilbert's collection of both small circulation re-prints and entirely new stories (such as the all-new Wraith story) will be shipped December 15th and will be available from the same distributors who handle Cerebus and Swords of Cerebus.

It will be 60 pages of black and white art, (no ads) in a 4-colour cover, similar to Swords of Cerebus, and will retail for $3.50. This will be a one-shot book, limited to basically what we get in initial orders, so don't delay or you may miss out. All distributors must have their orders in by November, so keep this in mind when ordering.

"Postcard from Michael T. Gilbert which accompanied his handwritten annotations for STRANGE BREW."

- Dave Sim

Dear Deni & Dave,

Here are the two pages of margin notes as promised. I know it looks like a large amount for two pages ... but it will all fit in ... and it will be legible. Trust me.

Deni ... rather than giving the typeset to your printer — please send it to me, first. I want to do special page borders myself. I'll have negatives made here & send the two pages directly to your printer, with the Wraiths negatives. If there's time, could you have negative

"Postcard from Michael T. Gilbert which accompanied his handwritten annotations for STRANGE BREW."

- Dave Sim

(reverse) photostats of the enclosed chapter headings made & send it with it? If you don't have time — just return the page & I'll have it done here. On the typeset, everything in pencil will be done in normal type - & everything in black will be done in bold. Anything underlined is to actually be underlined.

I've enclosed a receipt for the Strange Brew negatives, as you requested — and the bill for the Purolator mailing ($41.00) Any word on the contract? All for now... have a great trip - & I'll speak to you next month!!

Best... Michael —

"Mock-up of the tri-fold 1982 Christmas card."

- Dave Sim

"Letter from Harlan Ellison. We had met him at the last stop of the US TOUR at Mile High Comics (he was doing a signing just after us). A long-time comic book fan he had mentioned that he had read the entire run of CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES featuring the "Mr. Mind" serial, except issue No.27, where Mr. Mind had been revealed to be a super-intelligent worm. I made a mental note and then started checking THE COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE dealer ads every week when we got back. Found a VG copy for $8 a week or two later, ordered it and then sent it to Harlan with a cover note telling him this gave me claim on his first born.
The autographed hardcover copies of ALONE AGAINST TOMORROW, STRANGE WINE, DEATHBIRD STORIES and SHATTERDAY (the last with a Harlan Ellison cartoon of Cerebus, adapted from the image on our stationery, menacing a space alien who's thinking "Sneaky hunk o' bacon") are still in the Cerebus Archive."

- Dave Sim

HARLAN ELLISON

3484 COY DRIVE
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA
91423 (213) CR. 1-9636

11 December 82

Dave & Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
Post Office Box 1674
Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2 CANADA

Dear SIMpaticos:

Imagine my delight! Kindnesses above and beyond. I'd been hoping I'd hear from you (seeing as how you cleverly managed to impart neither address nor phone number for future liaison) but was genuinely pleased when the comics and trade paperbacks surfaced. Went right out and started trying to fill in what was missing. As of now, I have everything from issue 1 through 16 and 23 through 44. I am missing only issues 17/18/19/20/21/22.

If you have extras of those six, I'd be delirious with joy to receive same, thus giving me a total and complete run of the earth-pig's adventures.

As for the sudden appearance this morning via harried carrier of issue 27 of Captain Marvel Adventures, well, if I hadn't had a vasectomy eight years ago, you would most certainly have first call on my first-born homunculus. But as my seed will never produce anything but pleasure, I suppose you'll have to settle for the enclosed, first editions of four of my hardcover titles, including the unavailable SHATTERDAY. (The books have each been autographed, but the inscription defiling SHATTERDAY should be of special interest.) Deepest thanks!

If you have an address and phone number that you don't fear giving me, I'll put you in my personal directory where the data will be sacrosanct, and then when I feel like chatting, I won't have to write to a PO box.

As for writing a Cerebus story, which we discussed, the idea holds much appeal. What I'd like to do--and this is off in the misty future when we're both caught up on deadlines--is come and take a short visit in Kitchener, and write it there. Drink from the Source, as it were. Maybe late next year.

Until that time,

HARLAN ELLISON

HE:ds
enclosures

"Letter from Barry Windsor-Smith. Pretty intimidating, being asked to Art Direct Barry Windsor-Smith."

- Dave Sim

DEC 21 · 82

DEAR DAVE & DEBBI,

I'M SORRY I'VE NOT BEEN IN CONTACT: I'VE BEEN SOMEWHAT INVOLVED WITH MANY DISTRACTIONS....

I REALLY WANT TO PRODUCE A COVER FOR CEREBUS (ASSUMING THAT YOU'RE STILL INTERESTED IN SUCH A THING)... AND THIS, AT THIS MOMENT, SITTING INFRONT OF A LARGE PIECE OF BLANK ILLO BOARD INTENDED FOR THAT WORK.

THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE WORK ARE RATHER BROADER THAN I WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH AND THUS ASK YOUR ADVICE OF WHAT YOU WOULD/ MIGHT LIKE TO SEE: I FIND THAT I AM IN NEED OF A LITTLE ADVICE (ART DIRECTORIAL... THAT IS).

ANY THOUGHTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

LOVE

BARRY -

P.S. I WAS MOVED BY YOUR EULOGY TO GENE DAY.

"My reply to the letter on page 45."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

ear Barry:
'e are definitely still interested in a cover for Swords of Cerebus.
' hope you realize what an awkward position it puts me in to be asked to give art direction to my idol and mentor (pause while BVS blushes profusely).
The next volume of Swords that will be released is volume 5, consisting of Cerebus' #'s 17, 18, 19 and 20. Since this run takes place after he has been to Palnu as Kitchen Staff Supervisor, something allegorical showing Cerebus torn between civilisation and the sword would be quite nice. (I get the impression that I'm not being anymore helpful this time than I was last time). Perhaps a full figure of him holding an elaborately carved, ceremonial kind of sword in one hand and a really functional chipped-looking cut and thruster in the other hand? I liked the imagery that you used with the wall covered by vines in "The Beguiling" in Epic. Perhaps a finely-wrought column in the background gradually being taken over by foliage, but still maintaining a certain lustre?
Anyway, I decided to do a sketch of how I picture it. Anything you want to change or add to it or completely ignore, please do.
'e are ready to go to press with volume 5 anytime you get the cover to us. If you want to chat about it while you're working on it, or if I have only managed to confure you utterly with this gibberish, please feel free to call collect (my studio) 519-743-9332 (the office) 519-576-0610 (home) 519-745-0998.
Hope this was of some help.
Take care,

Dave

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Sketch for BWS re: the letter on page 45."

- Dave Sim

"Another sketch for BWS. He told me much later that in the context of what was going on his life at the time (see his OPUS books from Fantagraphics) "Go nuts" seemed more like a literal instruction."

- Dave Sim

"LONE STAR EXPRESS, the house organ for Lone Star Comics, and the interview I did with staff members on the '82 Tour – one of whom was Craig Miller, who would later publish FOLLOWING CEREBUS."

- Dave Sim

Lone Star EXPRESS
No. 119 DECEMBER 1982

Interview with Cerebus Creator Dave Sim

©1982 Dave Sim

" 'Status, son, you can't argue with status' decorated with one of the sketches at Lone Star, the request for which was "Can you do something about his tall pointy hat?" When I'd come up empty – as I did here – I'd just put that in the word balloon. It was good for a laugh and got me off the hook."

- Dave Sim

"Status, son, you can't argue with status!"

Dave Sim Interviewed

©1982 Dave Sim

When CEREBUS #1 came out in December 1977, it was a rather strange entity, not only because this was before the current proliferation of independently-produced comics, or because it featured a cartoonish aardvark in a detailed Barry Smithish Hyborian Age-type world, but because it immediately established itself as having some of the best writing in comics today. Five years later, it is the most successful independent comic ever published. We spoke with Dave Sim during his visit to Lone Star on October 16, 1982. The interview was conducted by Craig Miller, who also transcribed it and, along with Dave Sim, edited it. Steve Schleef and Dennis Ray assisted at various points along the way.

[CLICK]
Sim: What do you mean, what was my relationship with my mother...?
[CLICK!] [OOPS!]

HOW DID YOU COME TO PUBLISH YOUR OWN INDEPENDENT COMIC, CEREBUS?

Sim: Well, I decided to do it because there were a few people that were talking about doing it. I mean, I had done PHANTACEA, which I had drawn from a script, which was a superhero comic from Vancouver, and I had done another comic book for Hal Schuster, which at that time his company was going under the name of Irjax. And I sort of realized that there was no real money to be had doing it that way, but there was probably money to be had if you could publish it yourself and keep the profits on it. So Deni and I had decided to do three issues and see how it went. I knew that you couldn't just put out a comic book and expect it to go. I didn't want to put out one issue and say, we'll keep selling it until we've sold it to death.

I was a comic fan. I wanted something that was good, and I wanted it to come out

"The interview continued with more photos and more store sketches from the Lone Star appearances."

- Dave Sim

frequently. So we started bi-monthly and I said, okay, I have six months to get three issues out. And that was the test period.

THE TYPE OF CEREBUS-IN-THE-HUMAN-WORLD KIND OF THING REMINDED ME OF HOWARD THE DUCK IN THAT CONTEXT. DID YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE FUNNY ANIMAL-TYPE PARODY? TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO USE THE AARDVARK AS THE VEHICLE INSTEAD OF DOING A STRAIGHT CONAN PARODY?

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That's all right. He turned down Elfquest the same month he turned down Cerebus.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO REALIZE THAT YOU COULD GO BEYOND THE CONAN PARODY, WHICH SEEMED TO TAKE UP THE FIRST DOZEN ISSUES OR SO?

Sim: About the time I did issue 15. When you get down to the giant snake, you know you're running out of sword-and-sorcery ideas. The giant snake is a give-away that you're scraping the bottom of the barrel, which was really why I started thinking of switching to more political satire and things I was interested in. There's not a great deal you can do with sword and sorcery that is beyond the pale of whatever the twenty-five deadly cliches of fantasy comics are. And I didn't really want to get locked into that. It was a gradual process, but it was evident pretty quickly that you could not do a well-respected comic book that was just basically sword and sorcery or just basically a sword and sorcery parody. There had to be more involvement than that.

DID YOU THINK MUCH ABOUT WHAT WOULD BE IN FUTURE ISSUES, OR DID YOU THINK THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE THIS SWORD AND SORCERY PARODY A LONG TIME? OR WERE YOU REALLY THINKING THAT FAR IN THE FUTURE?

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and then every five months and then two in one month, comic fans hate that. So you don't do that. That was about the extent of my thinking in that direction at the time.

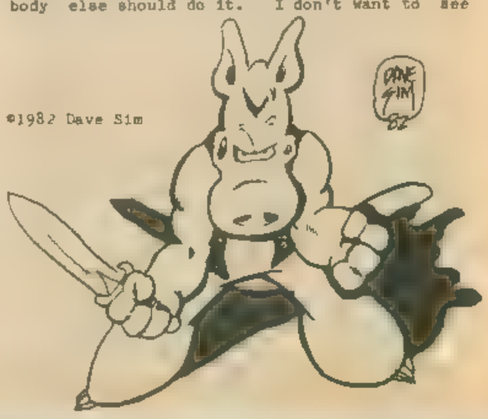
YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING SOME KIND OF CONSISTENCY WITH THIS. FOR INSTANCE, IN A LOT OF THE MAJOR TITLES THEY'VE RUN INTO PROBLEMS....

Sim: The Fantastic Four should be fifty years old!

YEAH, THEY SHOULD BE FIFTY YEARS OLD, AND STAN PROBABLY WASN'T THINKING ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY WOULD STILL BE PUBLISHED IN TWENTY YEARS. ARE YOU TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION NOW?

Sim. Sure, because when I'm done with it, I'm done with it. I'm not going to turn CEREBUS over to someone else to draw. ELFQUEST is not going to be turned over to someone else to draw. The problem comes in when the company has a comic book that's done by a successful artist or done by a successful team of artist and writer, and because the company makes its money owning the character, they end up owning very old characters who don't look very old. As far as I'm concerned, FANTASTIC FOUR should have stopped publishing a number of years ago after Jack Kirby and Stan Lee were done with it. I'm a firm believer in the fact that the original guy does it, and when he's done with it you stop publishing it and buy something else. I mean, you don't go out and find somebody who can draw Krazy Kat. When George Herriman dies, you don't go out and find the John Byrne of the time and say, "Well, this is what Krazy Kat looks like, can you do strips like this?"

That makes the character a product. I don't think the character is a product. I think the character is an integral part of the people who came up with the character, and if they're tired of doing it, I don't think anybody else should do it. I don't want to see



©1982 Dave Sim

Spirit stories by other people. Will Eisner's done with it. Will Eisner has matured and graduated far beyond the very simplistic elements that are in the Spirit. I don't want to see him do it again. I like to see the new stuff that he does. It's about the only stuff I read in the SPIRIT. It's great, it's magnificent!

YOU'RE PROBABLY FAMILIAR, THEN, WITH SOME OF THE NEW CONTRACTS MARVEL'S TRYING TO INSTITUTE IN WHICH THE CREATORS ACTUALLY OWN THE CHARACTERS. WHEN JIM STARLIN DOESN'T WANT TO DO ANY MORE DREADSTAR, THERE WILL BE NO MORE DREADSTAR.

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WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?

Sim: That was in the 1940s. And that was his only complaint. He didn't feel that they were handling the character correctly, that they weren't promoting it the way they should, that they weren't charging enough for the strip, and the court decided in his favor, that the artist does have the option of saying, you're not handling it right. Whereas, in comic books, we've had an attitude for a long time that if the companies don't own the characters, the companies can't make money, which is patently ludicrous. You make millions and millions of dollars publishing, you make thousands and thousands of dollars drawing. Which is why I publish. I mean, my business card has President of Aardvark-Vanaheim Incorporated, it doesn't have Dave Sim, boy artist.

ARE YOU PRETTY CONFIDENT THAT STEVE GERBER WILL WIN, THEN?

Sim: Well, it depends. Marvel is trying to use up all his money. It's the same thing that Disney does when they sue somebody. You take them to court, and you keep filing depositions and stays-of-execution and whatever else you have in legalistic jargon, and eventually they run out of money, and you settle for whatever you settle for.

©1982 Dave Sim

SAMPLE PAGE from CEREBUS 43.

©1982 Dave Sim

THIS WHOLE THING ON HOWARD THE DUCK IS INTERESTING, BECAUSE ORIGINALLY MARVEL WAS GETTING INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH DISNEY ABOUT THE LOOK OF THE CHARACTER, AND SO THEY CHANGED THE LOOK. AND NOW THEY'RE GETTING INTO MORE TROUBLE....

Sim: Sure, because Walt Disney has greater resources than Marvel, and if they had gone to court, they would have used up all of Marvel's money. So, go argue with jurisprudence, that's the way it works. You haven't got enough money, so they send in their lawyers and they use up your money.

I would say it's a negligible point now. I want to see Steve Gerber get rights back. I would like to see him get a cut of the action on movie deals and radio tie-ins. If he doesn't get it, well, we're going to have to say, okay, comics isn't working the way it should. But nobody at Marvel is going to be doing anything for the color line in any way meaningful, in terms of coming up with characters and whatnot, no matter what John Byrne may think. Nobody is going to uncork a great character that's going to make a million dollars. If you want to do that, go and do it for Archie Goodwin in the Epic line. Working for Epic is not working for Marvel. Somebody said that. Very profound, very profound. When you work for Epic, you're not working for Marvel. I'll work for Epic any day of the week, but I would not push pen across paper for Marvel comics.

OKAY, GETTING BACK TO THE--

Sim: Is this provocative enough for you?

OH SURE, THIS IS GREAT! GETTING BACK TO THE DIRECTION OF CEREBUS, AFTER YOU GOT OUT OF THE STRAIGHT CONAN PARODY, YOU GOT INTO A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL SATIRE. HOW MUCH OF AN INTEREST DO YOU HAVE IN POLITICS?

Sim: A very great interest. You don't have to have formalized, "We're going to elect you chief muckamuck to run us" to be called politics. I mean, there's politics in offices, there's politics in marriages, there's politics between kids and parents; everything is a negotiation where someone is operating from a position of strength facing someone whom they consider is in a position of weakness. And really all I've done is more formalized and moved over into a situation where you are actually dealing with actual politics. Because I am fascinated with that. The process of electing somebody, the process of figuring out who's the right man, who's lying, who's the front man, who's pulling the strings. This has been going on for centuries. This didn't start with Ronald Reagan. Yeah, I'm very interested in politics.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AT ALL AS A POLITICAL CARTOONIST?

"The interview continued with more photos and more store sketches from the Lone Star appearances."

- Dave Sim

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©1982 Dave Sim

SAMPLE

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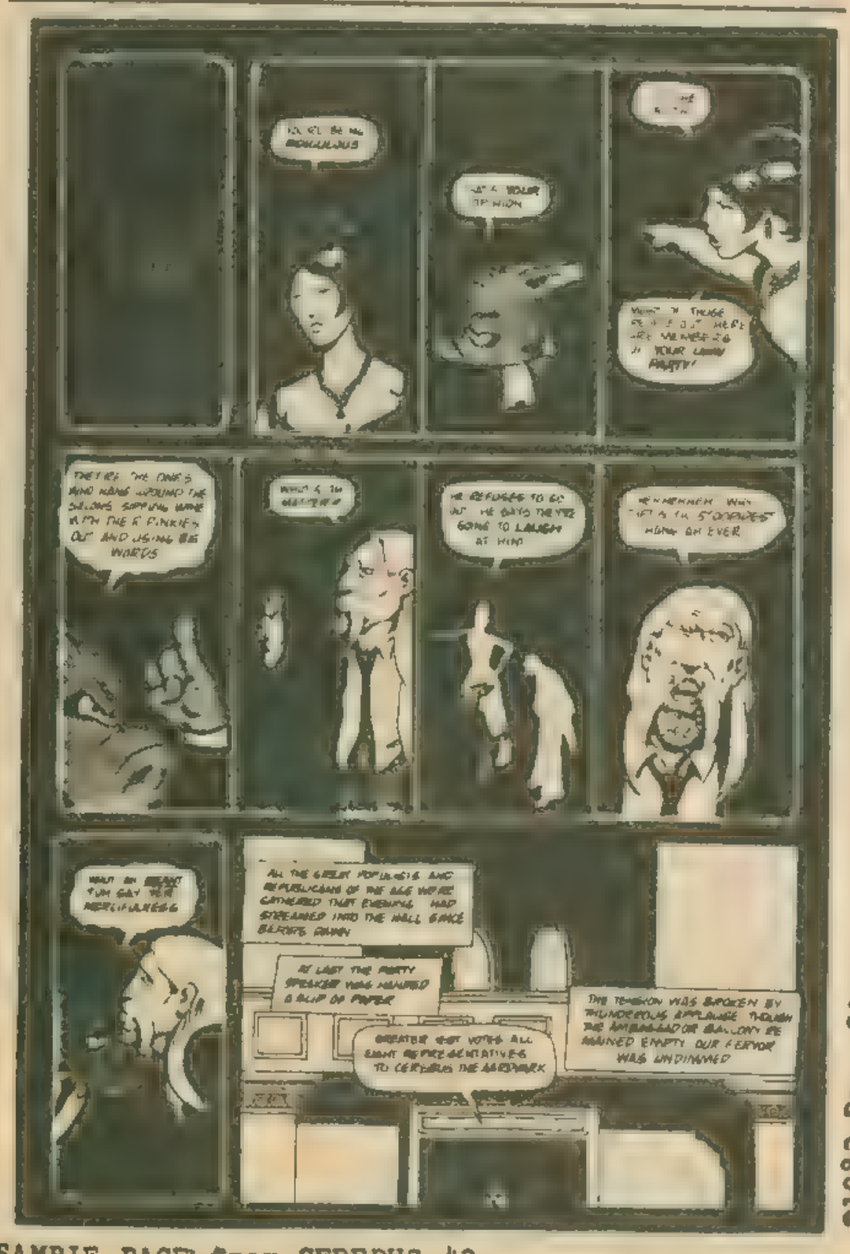
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO WERE WRESTLING THE SHEEP WITH THE F. PINKIES OUT AND USING BIG WORDS
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HE REFUSES TO GO BUT HE SAYS THEY'RE GOING TO LAUGH AT HIM
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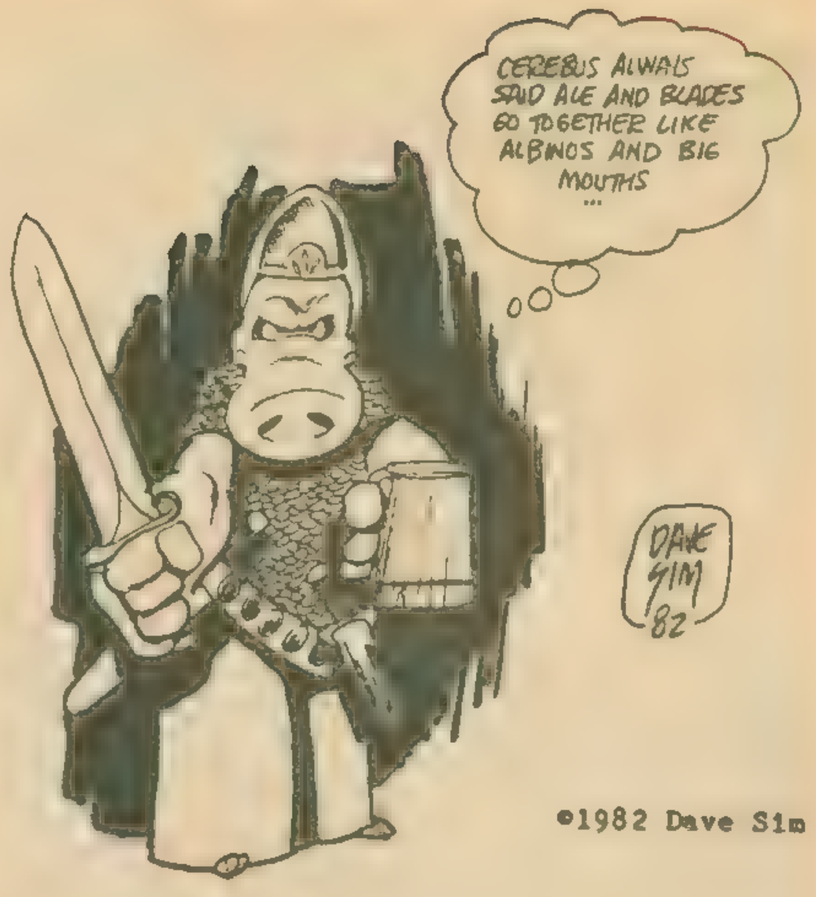
SAMPLE PAGE from CEREBUS 43.



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THIS WHOLE THING ON HOWARD THE DUCK IS INTERESTING, BECAUSE ORIGINALLY MARVEL WAS GETTING INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH DISNEY ABOUT THE LOOK OF THE CHARACTER, AND SO THEY CHANGED THE LOOK, AND NOW THEY'RE GETTING INTO MORE TROUBLE....

Sim: Sure, because Walt Disney has greater resources than Marvel, and if they had gone to court, they would have used up all of Marvel's money. So, go argue with jurisprudence, that's the way it works. You haven't got enough money, so they send in their lawyers and they use up your money.

I would say it's a negligible point now. I want to see Steve Gerber get rights back. I would like to see him get a cut of the action on movie deals and radio tie-ins. If he doesn't get it, well, we're going to have to say, okay, comics isn't working the way it should. But nobody at Marvel is going to be doing anything for the color line in any way meaningful, in terms of coming up with characters and whatnot, no matter what John Byrne may think. Nobody is going to uncork a great character that's going to make a million dollars. If you want to do that, go and do it for Archie Goodwin in the Epic line. Working for Epic is not working for Marvel. Somebody said that. Very profound, very profound. When you work for Epic, you're not working for Marvel. I'll work for Epic any day of the week, but I would not push pen across paper for Marvel comics.

OKAY, GETTING BACK TO THE--

Sim: Is this provocative enough for you?

OH SURE, THIS IS GREAT!. GETTING BACK TO THE DIRECTION OF CEREBUS, AFTER YOU GOT OUT OF THE STRAIGHT CONAN PARODY, YOU GOT INTO A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL SATIRE. HOW MUCH OF AN INTEREST DO YOU HAVE IN POLITICS?

Sim: A very great interest. You don't have to have formalized, "We're going to elect you chief muckamuck to run us" to be called politics. I mean, there's politics in offices, there's politics in marriages, there's politics between kids and parents; everything is a negotiation where someone is operating from a position of strength facing someone whom they consider is in a position of weakness. And really all I've done is more formalized and moved over into a situation where you are actually dealing with actual politics. Because I am fascinated with that. The process of electing somebody, the process of figuring out who's the right man, who's lying, who's the front man, who's pulling the strings. This has been going on for centuries. This didn't start with Ronald Reagan. Yeah, I'm very interested in politics.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AT ALL AS A POLITICAL CARTOONIST?

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Sim. Sure, sure, in the sense that, as Gil Kane said, the only problem with comic books is that people don't bring adult values to them. I mean, if you're doing Mucusman versus the Incredible Sludge Monster, and you're trying to bring adult values to it, it becomes very difficult. Whereas if you sit down to do politics, or religion, or anything else that concerns an adult, it's not difficult to bring adult values to it. I mean, an editorial cartoon is comics, it's words and pictures together. And you look at it, and you understand what they mean, and it appeals to an adult side of you. DOONESBURY is like that. There's the occasional flash of that in strips or cartooning. I'm trying to bring a bit of that to comic books.

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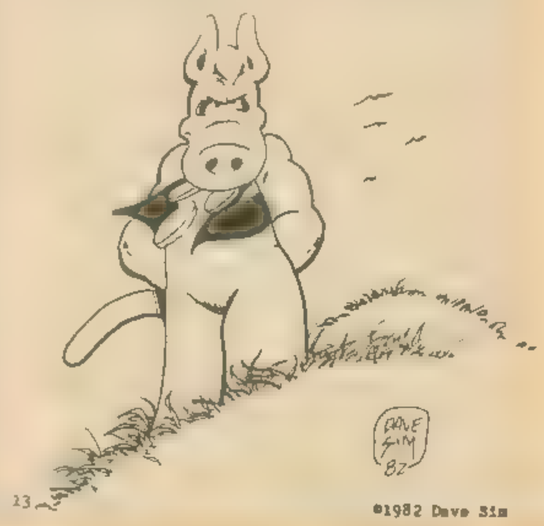

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skirt over the line, that's it, he was caught inside of two days, and that was only because it was the first time. The second time, it'll take a matter of an hour and a half, from the first time you try and pass the counterfeit CEREBUS #2, taking ten copies into a shop, that guy is going to contact the nearest Cerebus fan to bring his real #2 over, they'll look at them, they'll say this is not real, I don't know whether you did them or whether you got them from somebody who ripped you off, but this is where it stops. So I think that we can all feel quite happy in that, but I think we all have to confront the fact that this is the real world. Deni and Dave are not going to go out and hire Matt Murdock, and he's not going to find this guy and put him in jail for 90 years. There's no law against counterfeiting a comic book. Because it's not legal currency. It's not legally worth 200 dollars. Or 20 dollars. Ergo if you pay the guy 20 dollars for that, even if it's real, people consider, well, of course you got ripped off. It only says a dollar on the cover. And we have to accept that.

GETTING BACK TO CEREBUS, HAVE YOU HAD ANY THOUGHT OF CEREBUS'S GOING COLOR?

Sim. No.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

Sim: I don't like color. I have seen more great black and white artwork butchered by color, the Red Nails book by Marvel [CONAN SPECIAL EDITION 1] being a good case in point, the Warlock book. I'm sorry, I'm not impressed by Baxter paper, and I'm not impressed by day-glow color. I draw in black and white, and I will pay practically any price for beautiful black and white copies of Hal Foster's "Prince Valiant" strips, because I don't like the color

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they put on those, and that's some of the best comic book color ever done, is on the real old full-page Sunday funnies. And it's still not very good color. It's not as good as the black and white drawings. I'm not impressed. Possibly if somebody comes along who is willing to pay me an exorbitant amount of money to butcher my artwork with color, fine, I'll give him stats that he can color up and probably put a warning in the book Danger, don't buy this book, it's got shitty color in it.

I'D LIKE TO COMPLIMENT YOU AS ONE OF THE FEW ARTISTS WHO KNOWS HOW TO WORK IN BLACK AND WHITE, AND CAN PULL OFF A PAGE LOOKING SO WELL WITH JUST THE BLACK AND WHITE WITHOUT THE COSMETIC APPEAL OF COLOR.

Sim: I'm not as crazy about CREEPSHOW as a Berni Wrightson book as I am about BAUTIME STORIES or most especially the Black Cat story that he did for Warren. To me, the Black Cat story is absolutely miles beyond anything Berni did to that time, and in a lot of ways--

DID YOU SEE HIS FRANKENSTEIN WORK?

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And keeping CEREBUS on a monthly schedule.

IS THAT MUCH OF A PROBLEM?

Sim: It's not much of a problem, but it's a real priority. There's absolutely no question that if I have to sacrifice an outside project's deadline, I will do it at the drop of a hat to keep the book on a monthly schedule. We had no intention of going on this tour and losing a month, which would have been very easy to do. I drew ahead of time, managed to get 43 and 44 drawn, before we came down, and I have to start back on 45 as soon as we get back, like within a couple of days.

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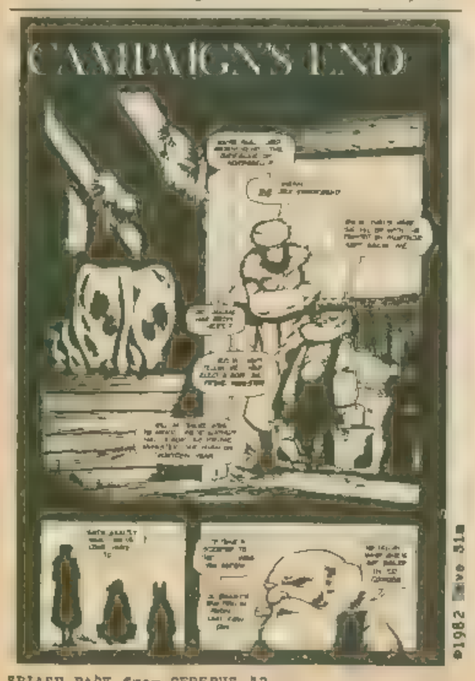

©1982 Dave Sim

SPLASH PAGE from CEREBUS #2.

©1982 Dave Sim

you start drawing it, and while you're drawing it you're thinking of jokes and ideas and things that they can say. The Moon Roach is a lot like that. I mean, if I've got two pages of Moon Roach, it's an easy Monday. Because he's so crazy and off the wall, you just have to read a bunch of Marvel comics, but instead of doing them as captions, you do them as word balloons. And you've got the Moon Roach. Then you pick up a Neal Adams thing to use for the drawing reference, just look at any of the Batman stories he did, and then take Marvel captions and make them word balloons--oh, that's an easy two pages. Everybody loves it. It's tempting to do a 20-page Moon Roach story.

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2305 North 4th St.
Longview, TX 75601
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4214 N. Lois Ave.
Tampa, FL 33614
Age: 15

Dwayne Valentine
Rt. 1, Box 666
Irvington, KY 40146

Bobby Pfeffer
155 Sunrise Terrace
Gilbert, MN 55741
Age: 14

Robbie Fletcher
Tron Mountain Road
Warwick, NY 10990
Age: 13

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2956 Anzar Rd.
Aromas, CA 95004
Age 16

John G. Blackwell, II
Co. "HQ," L.W.M.A.
Camp Hill, AL 36850
Age: 17

Darrell Taylor
2907 22nd Ave.
Tampa, FL 33605
Age: 19

Nicky Forlano
21-23 46th St.
Astoria, NY 11105
Age 15

Jon Schneider
1829 Pembroke
Topeka, KS 66604
Age: 13

"The interview continued with more photos and more store sketches from the Lone Star appearances."

- Dave Sim

skirt over the line, that's it, he was caught inside of two days, and that was only because it was the first time. The second time, it'll take a matter of an hour and a half, from the first time you try and pass the counterfeit CEREBUS #2, taking ten copies into a shop, that guy is going to contact the nearest Cerebus fan to bring his real #2 over, they'll look at them, they'll say this is not real, I don't know whether you did them or whether you got them from somebody who ripped you off, but this is where it stops. So I think that we can all feel quite happy in that, but I think we all have to confront the fact that this is the real world. Deni and Dave are not going to go out and hire Matt Murdock, and he's not going to find this guy and put him in jail for 90 years. There's no law against counterfeiting a comic book. Because it's not legal currency. It's not legally worth 200 dollars. Or 20 dollars. Ergo if you pay the guy 20 dollars for that, even if it's real, people consider, well, of course you got ripped off. It only says a dollar on the cover. And we have to accept that.

GETTING BACK TO CEREBUS, HAVE YOU HAD ANY THOUGHT OF CEREBUS'S GOING COLOR?

Sim: No.

ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

Sim: I don't like color. I have seen more great black and white artwork butchered by color, the Red Nails book by Marvel [CONAN SPECIAL EDITION 1] being a good case in point; the Warlock book. I'm sorry, I'm not impressed by Baxter paper, and I'm not impressed by day-glow color. I draw in black and white, and I will pay practically any price for beautiful black and white copies of Hal Foster's "Prince Valiant" strips, because I don't like the color

"I talked with Bill Sienkiewicz about possibly doing a Moon Roach story together for the back of SWORDS OF CEREBUS."

they put on those, and that's some of the best comic book color ever done, is on the real old full-page Sunday funnies. And it's still not very good color. It's not as good as the black and white drawings. I'm not impressed. Possibly if somebody comes along who is willing to pay me an exorbitant amount of money to butcher my artwork with color, fine, I'll give him stats that he can color up and probably put a warning in the book: Danger, don't buy this book, it's got shitty color in it.

I'D LIKE TO COMPLIMENT YOU AS ONE OF THE FEW ARTISTS WHO KNOWS HOW TO WORK IN BLACK AND WHITE, AND CAN PULL OFF A PAGE LOOKING SO WELL WITH JUST THE BLACK AND WHITE WITHOUT THE COSMETIC APPEAL OF COLOR.

Sim: I'm not as crazy about CREEPSHOW as a Berni Wrightson book as I am about BADTIME STORIES or most especially the Black Cat story that he did for Warren. To me, the Black Cat story is absolutely miles beyond anything Berni did to that time, and in a lot of ways--

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SPLASH PAGE from CEREBUS 42.

©1982 Dave Sim

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"Letter from Rick Crowe re: CEREBUS buttons."

- Dave Sim

Deni Sim
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
Box 1674, Station 'C'
Kitchener
Ontario. N2G 4R2

Put and in letters page Comix a Books Unlimited
205b Mansfield Road
Nottingham. NG1 3FS
ENGLAND

~~MEANTIME~~ ~~EDITORIAL~~?

DEC. 24 1982

Dear Deni,

Please find enclosed "proofs" of the five Cerebus Buttons. I hope you like them!

O.K., now the answers to your questions -

1/ The Buttons will be ready for sale by the third week in January.

2/ The Buttons will retail for 40p (U.K.), $1.40 (U.S.) & $1.60 (CANADA). This is for each button and includes shipping!

3/ I plan to distribute the buttons in The U.S.A. (I have written to Bud Plant & hopefully he'll be agreeable to our terms)

4/ Also, if it's O.K. with you, I'll contact Joe Krolik at STYX Comic Service with a view to him distributing them in Canada! Could you let me know if this is O.K. with you?

Best to yourself & Dave,

Rick Crowe.

P.S. The Artwork arrived about 4 weeks ago!

"Letter from Deni to Joel, the other person interested in doing buttons. It was an interesting question: how big was the market for buttons. Our guess was 'not very.' "

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

December 28, 1982

P.O. Box 161747,
Sacramento, CA., 95816

Dear Joel:

Thanks for your letter of interest in doing Cerebus buttons.

My apologies for such a late reply, but I have been catching up on work and making a few inquiries about button sales. Our distributors said that they would be interested in lapel-size buttons (1") but that the larger size ones, such as you sent us as samples, would not sell as well. We have some people in England who are producing and distributing buttons there, so you would only be doing it in North America. We would want advance royalties of 10 percent of gross based upon the number of buttons produced. We will provide the artwork, and will draw up the contract guaranting us payment up front.

We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Deni Sim
Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.
:km

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Letter from Carol Miracle."

- Dave Sim

Carol F. Miracle
Fantasy Future productions
Louisville, Ky. U.S.A.

Dear Denis + Dave,

Enclosed is the copy of the "Varkwise" you did for me, and the little review in Fosfax. It really was great to me you both, see the art, see the fun stuff fans do when they meet talented people. Sorry I had to leave, but you know how finals are (P.S. I got an "A" in that course!).

Once again, thanx for coming to see us, and keep that hardware happy!

Carol.

"Form letter from Deni re: price change on CEREBUS."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

CEREBUS PRICE CHANGE

Due to the long-standing fact that the Canadian dollar is worth about twenty cents less than the US dollar, there will be a change in the cover price of Cerebus.

Starting in January of 1983, the book will be $1.40 in the US and $1.60 in Canada. All discount breakdowns will remain the same.

Discount Structure

For Cerebus (begining with # 46)

minimum order of 1,000

1,000 to 2,999 .....65% off (US .63)
((Cdn .72)

3,000 and up .....70% off (US .42
((Cdn..48)

If you have any questions concerning the change, please don't hesitate to phone me at (519) 576-0610.

Sincerely

Deni Sim, publisher

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Form letter from Deni announcing the reprinting of SWORDS volume 2."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

TO ALL CEREBUS DISTRIBUTORS

This is a notice to remind our distributors that we will be reprinting SWORDS OF CEREBUS, Volume Two in January. The books will ship out January 15th, with Cerebus #46.

In order to do this, I must have your order in no later than January 2nd. There will be no changes in the book, and it will continue to have the same retail price and discount structure as previous issues.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Deni Sim

Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.,

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Letter from Kim Thompson at THE COMICS JOURNAL."

- Dave Sim

The Comics Journal

196 West Haviland Lane Stamford, CT 06903

Ph 203-329-7633

DAVE SIM
Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc.
Box 1674 Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario
CANADA N2G 4R2

January 4, 1983

Dear Dave,

'Twould appear that the Transcontinental Post Awful Conspiracy has swallowed up the first incarnation of the Interview Transcript. Bending to the inevitable, I'm enclosing a second copy. I hope this 'un gets to you.

I've also enclosed a few other goodies: LOVE AND ROCKETS #1; a copy of the Harlan Ellison issue of the JOURNAL (possession of which will become a felony in 1983, if Michael Fleisher has his way); and, because you didn't request it, a copy of THE SURVIVORS! I hope you enjoy any or all of this half as much as I enjoyed the Cerebi. (Buses?) Thanks much. (Cerebera?) ✱

(Cerephim?) (Oh, shut up!)

I'm not surprised that you aren't getting anything from New Media. We are also supposed to be on their comp list, but never get anything from them, with the exception of five copies of the Journal parody of RBCC, which is about six too many. I've deliberately kept them off our comp-list for that reason; let the swine buy their own copies.

SWORDS OF CEREBUS has now hit the point where it's reprinting stuff I already have, so don't worry about not sending out freebies from five on. I do appreciate the ones I got so far, believe me.

Gary has written an absolutely ball-busting five-page editorial on the state of Marvel, quoting extensively not only from the new conference I sent you a transcript of, but also from a subsequent debate with Tom DeFalco. In my judgment, this editorial represents the most blatant, in-depth attack on Marvel as a whole any member of the comics press has ever run, and I fully expect that we'll all be personae non gratae at Marvel for a substantial period of time. (In a moment of impishness, we placed Marvel's paid ad for that issue squarely in the

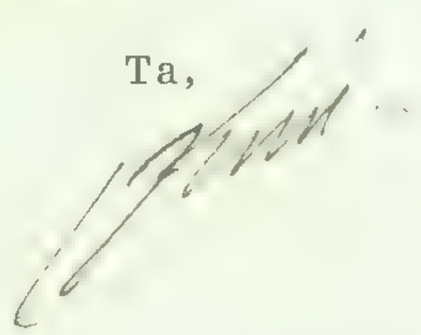
middle of the piece. Hee. Hee.) This is #79, by the way, so don't look for it in #78, which is the next one out. All we do there is tear into Jim Starlin, The New Mutants, and other such (by our standards) misdemeanors. Nothing lynch-worthy, that is.

Marvel is still pissed-off enough at Comics Scene that they're indulging in petty stuff like refusing to send complimentary copies of their comics to Howard Zimmerman. (When Greenberger asked PR toady Peter David about sending comps a few weeks after making an initial request, David's response was "We're thinking about it.") Marvel is also not sending out copies of the Baxter comics in their comp-package because "it's too expensive." (Actually, if Cadence is doing as poorly as the scuttlebutt has it, that may be a consideration.)

Looking forward to seeing the finished version of the interview. I do think it turned out quite nicely.

Best to you and Deni. I continue to enjoy Cerebus a whole lot. (Only comparable enjoyment of recent memory was derived from Love & Rockets #2, and "Omaha" in Bizarre Sex #10.) Maybe I'll write a LOC to Cerebus someday, just so's I can see my name in print.

Ta,



* Promised "enclosed" items were actually sent separately, for reasons of expediency and postality. Should show up soon after this.

"Letter from Barry Windsor-Smith who was in Los Angeles doing design work for CONAN II."

- Dave Sim

1003 HAUCKHURST.
LOS ANGELES, CA
90046.

JAN 6 · 1983 ·

DEAR DAVE,

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER (RE-ROUTED TO ME HERE IN LA), I'M CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN WRITING AND (ART) PRODUCING CONAN II. THAT'S NOT PARTICULARLY THE GOOD STUFF IT SOUNDS... SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I'M HERE AT ALL, IT'S A HARD GRIND — AND NOT ENTIRELY SATISFYING EITHER. · BUT, BE THAT AS IT MAY — THE POINT IS I'M TIED UP..... AND I CANNOT PRODUCE A PICTURE FOR SWORDS #5. SIX MAYBE!

I KNOW THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE A FICKLE COP-OUT. IT IS NOT, PRAY BELIEVE. I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO FIT ME INTO THE SCHEDULE SO QUICKLY, QUITE SIMPLY; I KNEW THIS CONAN II THING WAS COMING UP -(I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH THE PRODUCER FOR SOME MONTHS)- AND WAS HALF-THINKING TO MYSELF THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF IT THE BEST TONIC I COULD HAVE FOR TINSEL-TOWN WOULD BE LOOKING ON CEREBUS (WHICH I CONSIDER THE ROOTS OF CONAN COMICS, NOT VICE-VERSA). BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ~~PASSA~~ DO NOT ALLOW FOR MY ATTENTION TO CEREBUS NOW. SOON, THOUGH, SOON..

THAT BEING SAID - LET ME SAY THAT YOUR SKETCH WAS EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED FROM YOU (WISH YOU'D SIGNED IT.), AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH. COULD YOU POSSIBLY SUGGEST ANOTHER COVER TO ME (I DO NEED THIS FROM YOU - ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL EXPLAIN MORE FULLY THE REASONS) FOR ISSUE 6 ~~OF~~ SWORDS OF CEREBUS?

ASSUMING THAT I'LL HAVE A BIT OF TIME TO PRODUCE THE PIECE AND ALSO HOPING I'LL BE FREE OF

"Letter from Barry Windsor-Smith who was in Los Angeles doing design work for CONAN II."

- Dave Sim

DUE EXCESSIVE ENTANGLEMENTS OF PRE-PRE-PRODUCTION OF CONAN II, I'LL BE BETTER ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT I HOPE YOU AND DENI WILL BE PROUD OF.

MY ADDRESS IS ON THE FRONT PAGE, MY PHONE NUMBER IS 213-650-5246, PLEASE WRITE AS SOON AS YOU CAN. IF YOU WANT TO PHONE GIVE ME A WEEK OR TWO, AS I'M AWFULLY TIED UP AND INVOLVED WITH THE MOVIE.

THANKS ONCE AGAIN -

LOVE

BARRIE

"Letter from Deni to Rick Crowe re: CEREBUS buttons."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

January 10, 1983

205B Mansfield Road,
Nottingham, NG1 3JS
England,

Dear Rick:

The proofs to the pins look great ! I can hardly wait to get the word out to the fans.

You might get a bit of resistance to $1.40 (U.S.) retail price. I would approach our other distributors as well; some shops buy from one distributor, some from another.

If you wish, be my guest to talk to Joe Krolik. If you are making him exclusive Canadian distributor - tell him so. If not, contact Ron VanLeun at Andromeda Publications, 323 Queen St.W., Toronto, Ontario. I think between the two of them you should be able to hit all the Canadian shops.

Also - are you selling them directly ? If so - why not send us your ad ?

That's about it right now. Let me know if you are having any problems, and how sales are progressing.

Sincerely,

Deni Sim,
Publisher, Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.,
:km

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Comic book show not just for laughs

By TERESA MAZZITELLI
Journal Staff Writer

Featuring the 1939 debut of the Human Torch and currently valued at an astonishing $16,000, Marvel Mystery No. 1, is the prize possession of comic book collectors around the world.

For those who are not *true* collectors, Amazing Fantasy No. 15, Spiderman's first entry into the realm of superstardom (it sold for a mere 12 cents on its date of publication in 1962) is selling for the hefty but much more reasonable amount of $750 at this weekend's Alta Con Comic Book Convention.

The city's second such convention this year (ending today at the Northwoods Inn) offers a chance to browse and possibly purchase some minor books at minor prices, delve into the past or discuss the state of the comic book art with artists, buyers and collectors from across the country.

But beware: the superhuman world of the Fantastic Four and their counterparts and contemporaries has not only changed drastically in style and content, it's become both a business and an art.

"That's why you'll see an oil painting by Carl Banks (the Walt Disney artist specializing in ducks) of Donald Duck selling for $25,000. It all points at what you would rather have, a sketch by Da Vinci or a Carl Banks," says 18-year-old collector Glenn Ghaney.

In possession of a collection worth $5,000 (according to the comic book buyer's bible, Price Guide by Robert Overstreet), this veteran of the scene went in search of Green Lantern No. 81. No luck.

Organizer Bill Moroziuk expects some several hundred readers to wander into the hotel's Timberline Room during the two-day convention.

Most of them will be eager adolescents bargaining in the $10-range and most of them will be inexperienced buyers interested in comics for their entertainment value.

"It satisfies a certain craving in certain people," says exhibitor Diederick De Ryk, whose exhibit contains some 900 comics — including Amazing Fantasy No. 15 — pulled from the 100,000 available in his Victoria specialty store, Island Fantasy.

Ghaney, on the other hand, is all business about collecting. "You have to know what you're doing. Otherwise you'll get taken. It *is* a business."

To 27-year-old artist Dave Sim, the creator of Cerebus, it's also a profession.

His creation, an awkward aardvark, is Sim's attempt to "address real human concerns as opposed to James Bond fantasies."

This confused anti-hero magnifies the change that comic books have undergone since their '50s golden days.

The plastic, faultless, glorified superhero faded under the weight of the '60s social turmoil.

Good is no longer synonymous with a white hat, and love is no longer of the pure Superman-Lois Lane variety.

"They reflected the period," explains Moroziuk. "In the '50s we wanted super superheroes. In the '60s the characters became more realistic."

"My characters don't have grand motivations but they are all the more interesting for it," says Sim, one of the few Canadian artists to survive in this competitive market.

"Two people meet under the same roof and you have to read between the lines and discover for yourself whether it's authentic emotion."

Sergio Aragones, who has worked for Mad magazine since 1963, approaches contemporary topics through his invention, a barbarian called Groo the Wanderer.

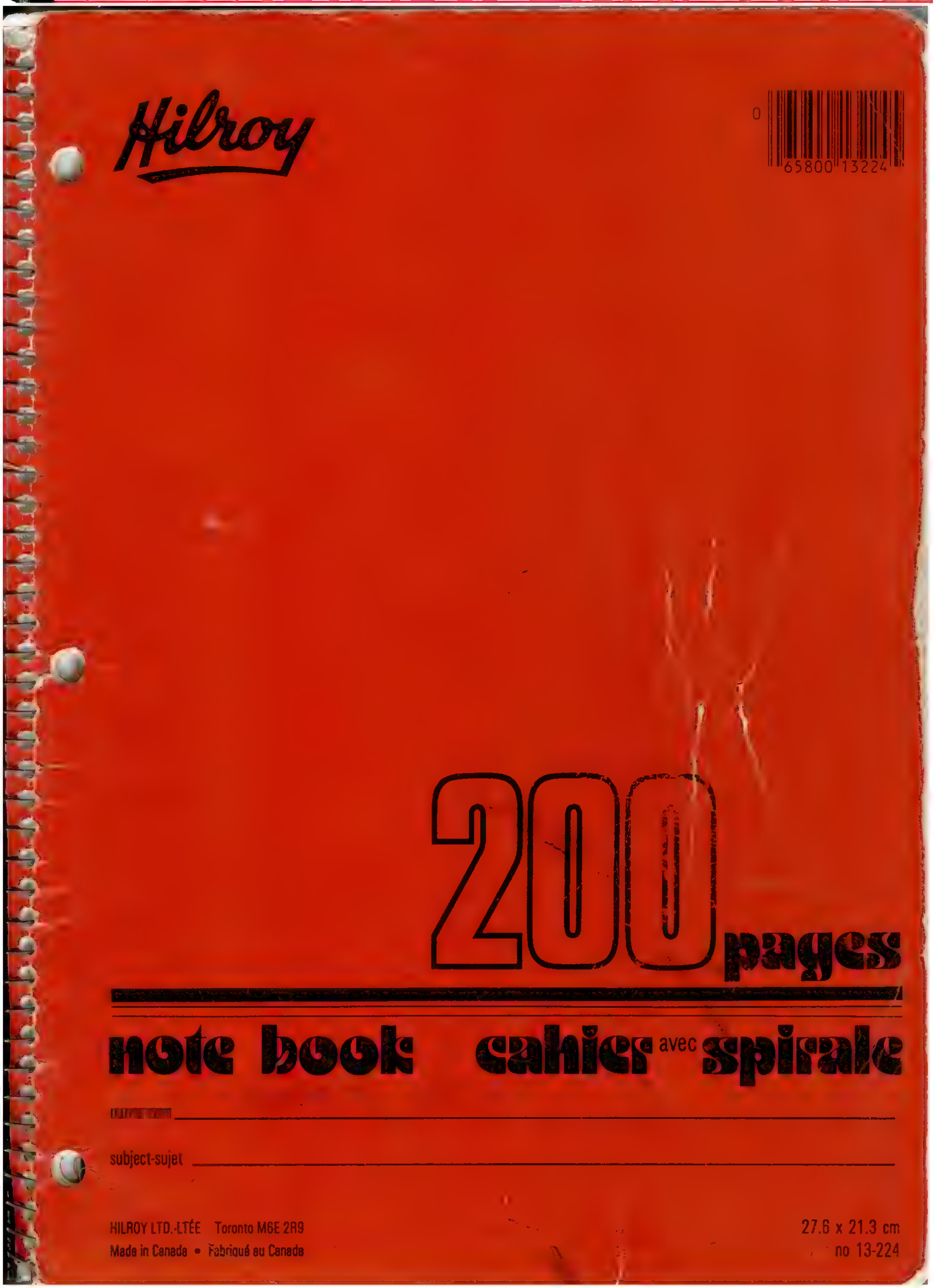
"He's a person I wouldn't like for a friend. He's so stupid, so violent, but you develop a tenderness for him because you know him like a son. He uses his sword before his brain, that's why nothing works for him. That's what I hope the kids realize: that he uses violence before he thinks and that's why nothing will work for him."

CEREBUS

ARCHIVE

NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross Too"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

(Cerebus no. 34, JANUARY, 1982)

PAGE ONE - challenging EUROD... EUROD very happy to see Cerebus.

PAGES 2 and 3 Cerebus tried to hide him. "BOY, first the Governor of the Legislature ~~kicks~~ kicks it...

Now Cerebus has to keep you out of the way before you ruin everything

PAGE 10
EUROD mentions PRESIDENT WEISSHAUPT. but first ASTORIA has to come back and she and Elrod talk POLITISPEAK.

I heard about your plumbing trouble, son

urinary disfunction, that is.

You've gotta I say, you gotta watch where you wee-wee, boy.

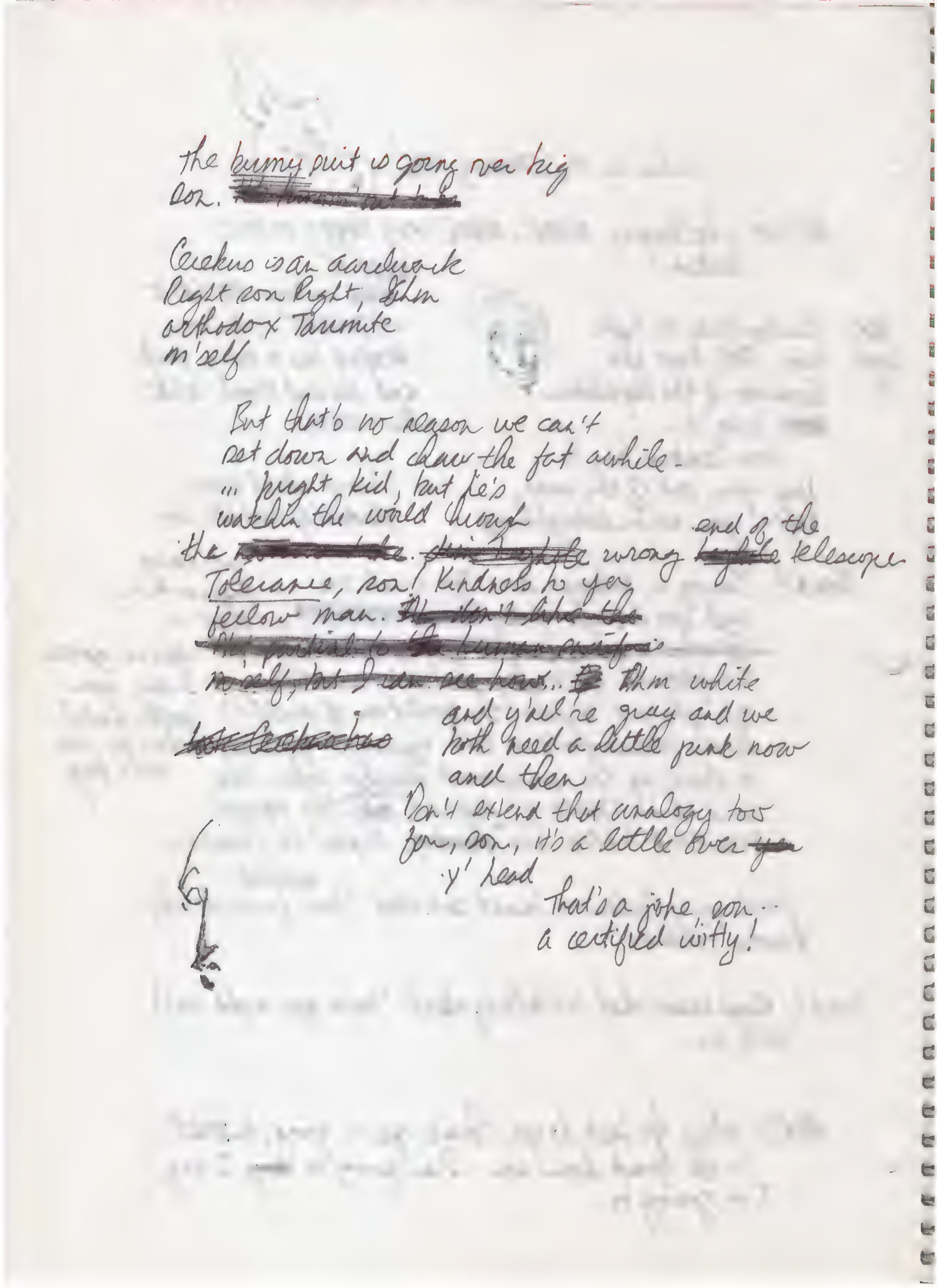
3 and 4. "Swing in balance com. Too much YIN and not enough YANG. ~~[redacted]~~ ~~[redacted]~~ The governor of the legislature was the one who put together the coalition of middle level bureaucrats in both opposition parties to shore up the government benches when the hard-line TORYMITES defected ~~when~~ the PRIME MINISTER ~~[redacted]~~ tabled his ~~[redacted]~~ Report on Finance

EUROD gives Cerebus a tract entitled "Our beloved friends the Lower Feldans"

3 and 4 Elrod knows what he's talking about. "You've done right well y'self, son

PAGE 11 Where the heck do you think you're going, ALBINO! In the front door son.. I'm going to ~~[redacted]~~ I say I'm going to.

HSANB 1/34 - Not nearly as smooth a start to issue 34 where I'm making the same mistake with Elrod that I did with the Moon Roach – trying to turn him into an information-spouting character where "Astoria has to come back and she and Elrod talk POLITISPEAK." If he's talking politi-speak, he isn't Elrod.


the bunny suit is going over big
son.
Cerebus is an aardvark
Right son Right, Elrod
orthodox Tarimite
m'self
But that's no reason we can't
set down and chew the fat awhile -
... bright kid, but he's
watchin the world through
the
Tolerance, son! Kindness to yer
fellow man.
myself, but I can see how...
and y'all're gray and we
both need a little punk now
and then
Don't extend that analogy too
far, son, it's a little over
y' head
that's a joke, son...
a certified witty!

HSANB 2/34 - Then going back the other way, as with the Moon Roach, where I have a funny exchange but it isn't advancing the plot:
ELROD: The bunny suit is going over big, son!

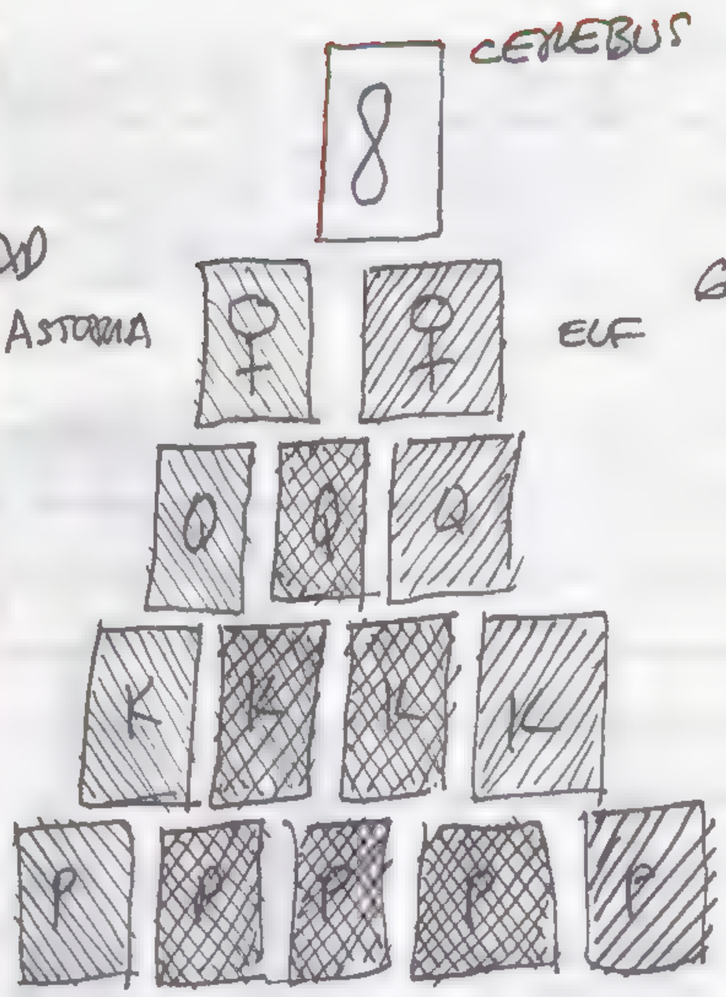
CEREBUS: Cerebus is an aardvark.
ELROD: Right, son, right. AHM Orthodox Tarimite, m'self. But that's no reason we can't set down and chew the fat awhile [aside to Astoria] bright kid, but he's watchin' the world through

the kinny suit is going over big
dor. [redacted]

Cerebus is an aardvark
Right son Right, Ishm
orthodox Taurnite
m'self

But that's no reason we can't
set down and chaw the fat awhile -
... bright kid, but he's
watchin the world through
the [redacted]. [redacted] wrong end of the telescope
Tolerance, son! Kindness to yer
fellow man. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] ahm white
and y'all're gray and we
both need a little pink now
and then
Don't extend that analogy too
far, son, it's a little over y'head
That's a joke, son...
a certified witty!

the wrong end of the telescope. [to Cerebus] Tolerance, son[!] Kindness to y'fellow man[!] Ahm white and y'all're gray and we both need a little pink now and then [thinks about it] Don't extend the analogy too far, son, it's a little over y'head [brightening as he visualizes Cerebus and Astoria's relative heights] That's a joke, son – a certified witty!



MAGENTA
PURPLE

MAGENTA

CEREBUS
ASTORIA ELF
JAKA JAKA's SISTER
EUROD

CIRINIST ICEVILLIST
CIR KEL

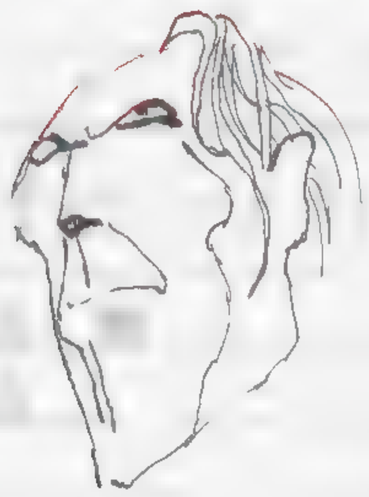
PRIESTESS
RED QUEEN BLACK QUEEN
RK BK IC BK
KINGS RED LT. BLUE
RED RED LT. BLUE
RED RED RED LT. BLUE.

UGLOT BLUE

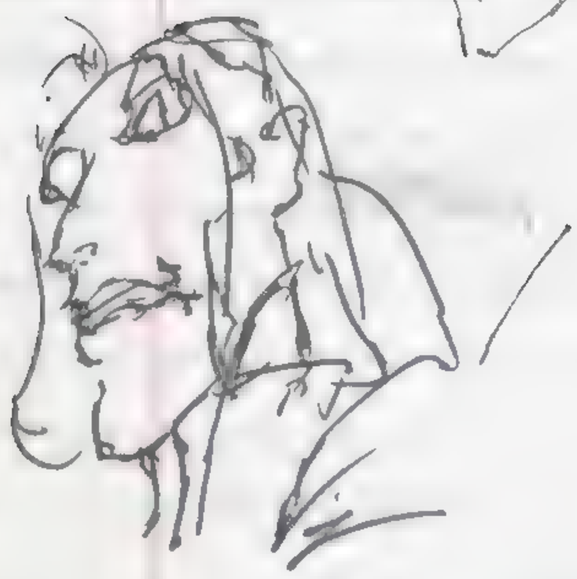
PSS. - QRPS BPS BPS BPS.
PSS - QS
QF - QS
PSS - KF
QF - ICF
QF - KS
QS - KF

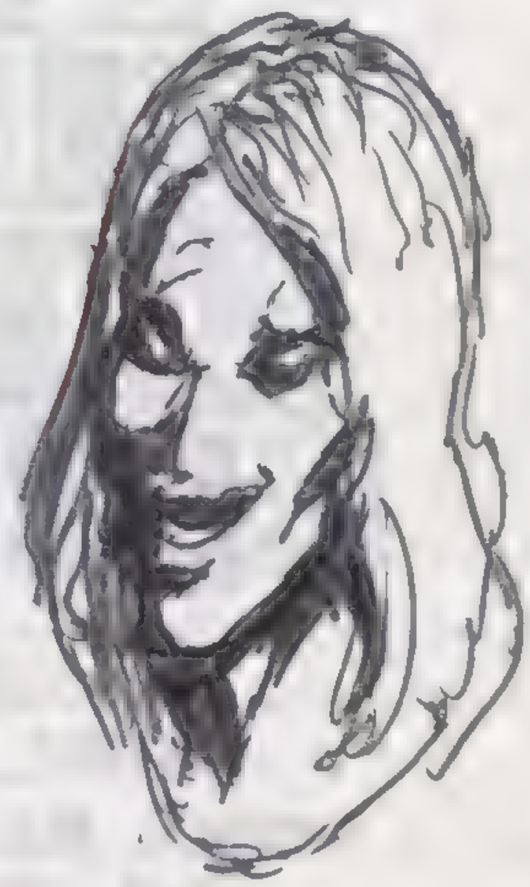
~~KING~~ PRIESTESS
QUEEN of FLOWERS QUEEN of SWORDS
KING of FLOWERS KING of SWORDS
KING of SWORDS
PRIEST of FLOWERS PRIEST of SWORDS
PRIEST of SWORDS PRIEST of SWORDS
PRIEST of SWORDS.

HSANB 3/34 - The Diamondback "pyramid" as a potential structural guide to HIGH SOCIETY. Cerebus is the Magician, Astoria is the Bad Priestess, the Elf is the Good Priestess. Jaka and Jaka's sister as Queens? No, they hadn't had children so they were priestesses. Unless Jaka had had a child at some point and wasn't talking about it [filed away mentally for JAKA'S STORY]. First concept for the Priestess card game – never got past the illustration stage – in bottom right.



COVER ELROD BACKGROUND of FOUR ~~FIVE~~ WINDOWS SEE COVER #33





PAGE ONE CEREBUS GREETING ELROD "Get the hell out!" kind of thing

ELROD LIKES THE ROOM / PASTRIES: ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

"An Albino at the Regency"

ELROD OFT LOVES HOTELS

IN TOWN FOR THE CON, SON...

~~[illegible]~~

PETUNIA-CON

Cerebus: Look--you're just going to have to leave Cerebus he's a lot of important thing going on

HSANB 4/34 - Elrod sketches and alternative story title: "An Albino At the Regency". Trying to "write" Elrod when it's better just to start drawing the splash page and "doing" Elrod in my head while pencilling.

PAGE ONE OUT FRONT OF LOPEZ
Cerebus Roy
knocks him out too

In touch for the con
SOON -- PETUNIA
COM

PAGE TWO
in the kitchen two lumberjacks wake Roy dragging Elrod out of the kitchen leave to fetch a cab
Cab driver is same guy from #26
He can make trouble for Cerebus check him.
Leo M'Lord.

You been here a while com.

PAGE THREE...
walking back into the Regency
inside the room when Cerebus gets there.
Mad at him.
Cerebus physical intimidation.

PAGE FOUR
DRAGGING ELROD
TO THE DOOR CRIES
WE NEED THIS BILL
PAID, M'LORD
HAS TO BORROW THE
MONEY. SEND UP THE
ROOM CLERK.
ROOM CLERK.
Cerebus has to borrow.
two hundred crowns

PAGE FIVE - smuggling him out.

HSANB 5/34 - Same deal – Trying to "write" Elrod. It isn't going to work. Once he's on the page, he'll write himself.

NICE BOY, BUT HE'S NOISIER THAN A WASH TUB IN A HAIL STORM

Pursuivant Convention.

1 Elrod talking about the con...
2 Cerebus kidnaps him out Now Cerebus has to find ~~Cole~~...
3 Jaka's emergency call for a cab, guy from #26.. ditch him
4 Cerebus going back to the hotel inside his room Elrod?! Wow.
5 Jabbering about the con, shut up or Cerebus will kill you
6 ~~Opening Move pantomime for room check and a lot Ramsey~~ — TIME TO WRAP THIS
7 ~~1,030 rooms Cerebus in turn~~ Finds all the ARRESTED, UNLOCKED
8 ~~Cat Cerebus the room clerk~~ Money Cerebus has. ~~next to Ramsey money bag~~
9 ~~starts explosion~~ Elrod
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

PAGE 6 MOON ROACH bursts in. You think you're so hot! You think that you can.
THE GOVERNOR OF THE LEGISLATURE WAS ONLY THE FIRST.
I'm gonna get them all! I know everyone who's ready to help you and I'm gonna close some doors on all of them .. You need me!
EVERY ONE OF THEM!
1) AT FIRST THEY'LL JUST CONSTITUTE OVER THE FACT THAT A LOT OF THEIR ~~BUDDIES~~ COMRADES ARE BEING WIRED OUT. 2) THEN THEY'LL START GETTING ORGANIZED

HSANB 6/34 - Trying the terse phrase per page approach. It's not working. Sample Elrod line: "Nice boy, but he's noisier than a wash tub in a hail storm!"
I do get the bright idea of bringing the Moon Roach in to keep the plot moving forward.

THE BLACK LEOTARDS WON'T WORK THIS TIME, BUNKY, OLD CHUM, MY ROACH-MIND IS MADE UP...

PAGE ⑦ Cockus upset... Astoria's everything falling apart.

Why not at all, Ron explains what Astoria's probably hoping to do

PAGE ⑧ Astoria comes in "Elrod!" Elrod steps and asks Astoria how the vote went.

Progressive Conservatives — Premier of the Province
Blake — Leader of the Legislature
Legislature Majority Leader.
Legislature Official Opposition Leader
Prime Minister veto power
Minister of Commerce and Trade
Minister of Roads
Minister of External Affairs
Minister of the Treasury

PAGE ⑨ Cockus is upset Everything's been going wrong lately.

I heard... ah say... I heard about your plumbing trouble, son

urinary dysfunction that is...

you gotta-- I say you gotta watch where you "wee-wee"

(STARTS TO FILL CEREBUS IN...)

PAGE ⑧ Astoria comes in. "Elrod!"

Astoria knows something about Elrod of Melvinstone — there's always something

PAGE ⑨ IN DOWN FOR "PETUNIA CON"

LORD JULIUS PRESENTS "PETUNIA" CON.

HSANB 7/34 - "THE BLACK LEOTARDS WON'T WORK THIS TIME, BUNKY, OLD CHUM, MY ROACH-MIND IS MADE UP..." Referring back to Captain Cockroach in CEREBUS No.21/22. Decided against it in favour of having just a two panel walk on. "I heard...ah say...I heard about your plumbing trouble, son...urinary dysfunction, that is...y'gotta- I say[...] you gotta watch where you 'wee-wee'" That was usable but not on page 7. I needed to move it back to page 1 as a motive for Cerebus to "go ballistic" right off the top

Elrod wants a place to stay for the con.

"LORD JULIUS PRODUCTIONS presents PETUNIA CON
1EST'S first major ~~pol~~ ~~con~~ ~~political convention~~
~~INTER CONT~~ politicon
~~INTER CONT~~
~~Military Intellectual political~~
~~political economic~~
"PETUNIA-CON-: The festival of PETUNIAS?!"
Here!- at the REGENCY?!
~~Astoria Astoria~~ CEREBUS is first PALIKARI to enter 1EST
in one hundred years
Ah figured ah conned just crack
law with you, son...
~~Tyro Initiate~~ LORD JULIUS ~~is~~ is coming to make
him an insider
31- Chasing Cootie meets Astoria - Astoria gets the head of the
Inquisition
32- Alliance - Astoria starts making money for Cerebus while
the church's forces are in disarray
maintains-that Cerebus was the target of the Moon
Roach who is an assassin for the Inquisition
33- Friction - Moon Roach drops Governor of the Legislature
Church representative. Astoria sells the Church on the
idea of switching decision making to middle level
management types in the church hierarchy - Business
agrees that their regional reps in the Legislature
will be easier to deal with than trying to win
vote for restructuring of the Legislature ~~government~~ charters and ~~contracts~~ licenses to do business
Convinces the church to ~~vote~~ the prime minister out of
office cabinet goes, too. Replaced by senior civil
servant in each ~~portfolio~~ ministry. Now to be given
10% of all income for their salary.

HSANB 8/34 - Then, back the other way, documenting what Astoria is actually doing behind the scenes: "Astoria sells the Church on the idea of switching decision-making to middle-level management types in the Church hierarchy – Business agrees that their regional reps in the Legislature will be easier to deal with than trying to win government charters and licenses to do business. Convinces the Church to vote [a)] for restructuring of the Legislature

continued...

Elrod wants a place to stay for the con.

"LORD JULIUS PRODUCTIONS presents PETUNIA CON
IEST'S first major ~~pole cons~~ ~~political convention~~
~~IMP CONS~~ ~~IMP CONS~~ politicon
~~Military Intellectual political~~
~~political economic~~
"PETUNIA-CON-: The festival of PETUNIAS?!"
Here!- at the REGENCY?!
~~Astoria shows~~ CEREBUS is first PAINAN to enter IEST
in one hundred years
Ah figured ah conned just crack
Lee with you, son...
~~Lord Julius enters~~ LORD JULIUS ~~is~~ is coming to make
him an insider
31- Chasing Cootie meets Astoria - Astoria gets the head of the
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Church representative. Astoria sells the Church on the
idea of switching decision making to middle level
management types in the church hierarchy - Business
agrees that their regional reps in the Legislature
would be easier to deal with than trying to win
vote for restructuring of the Legislature ~~government~~ chapters and ~~supports~~ licenses to do business
Convinces the church to ~~ok~~ the prime minister out of
Office cabinet goes, too. Replaced by senior civil
servant in each ~~portfolio~~ ministry now to be given
10% of all income for their salary.

[and b)] the [P]rime [M]inister out of office[...C]abinet goes too. Replaced by senior civil servant in each Ministry now to be given 10% of all income for their salary." The Kevillist "Eye in the Pyramid" – move the actual power to mid-level. A real world example is Pope Benedict's butler getting caught leaking confidential Papal information to the media.

34- Astoria arrives back at the room with Kevillists/
Eye in the Pyramids now in control of TEST. Three
per cent ~~#~~ tariff increase will finance restructuring
KEVILISTS' theory is that established civil servants
are more likely to have a good marriage and are used
to going to their wives for advice. The big power
brokers are completely autonomous and completely
out of control in Kevillist view - Cummots see it as
one more wooly-headed sell-out to make supremacists
in effect saying that incompetent men influenced by
their wives are preferable to incompetent men not
influenced by their wives.

So Astoria arrives back all set to fill in her
framework with the right stuff and finds ~~out~~
Elrod in the room. "Your highness. I'm sorry I
didn't know it was you." She could work really
good if she could keep him around. "Stay for tea
Con? Why we'd be delighted to entertain the renowned...
Con? What on Earth is a Con?"

Lord Julius! the biggest contralist that ever
breathed air. What on Earth would he be doing to
TEST for?

(10) Of Elrod would excuse them -- He can help us
that post.

Cerebus Elrod Moon Roach Astoria Elf.

CEREBUS Elf Astoria Elrod Moon Roach.

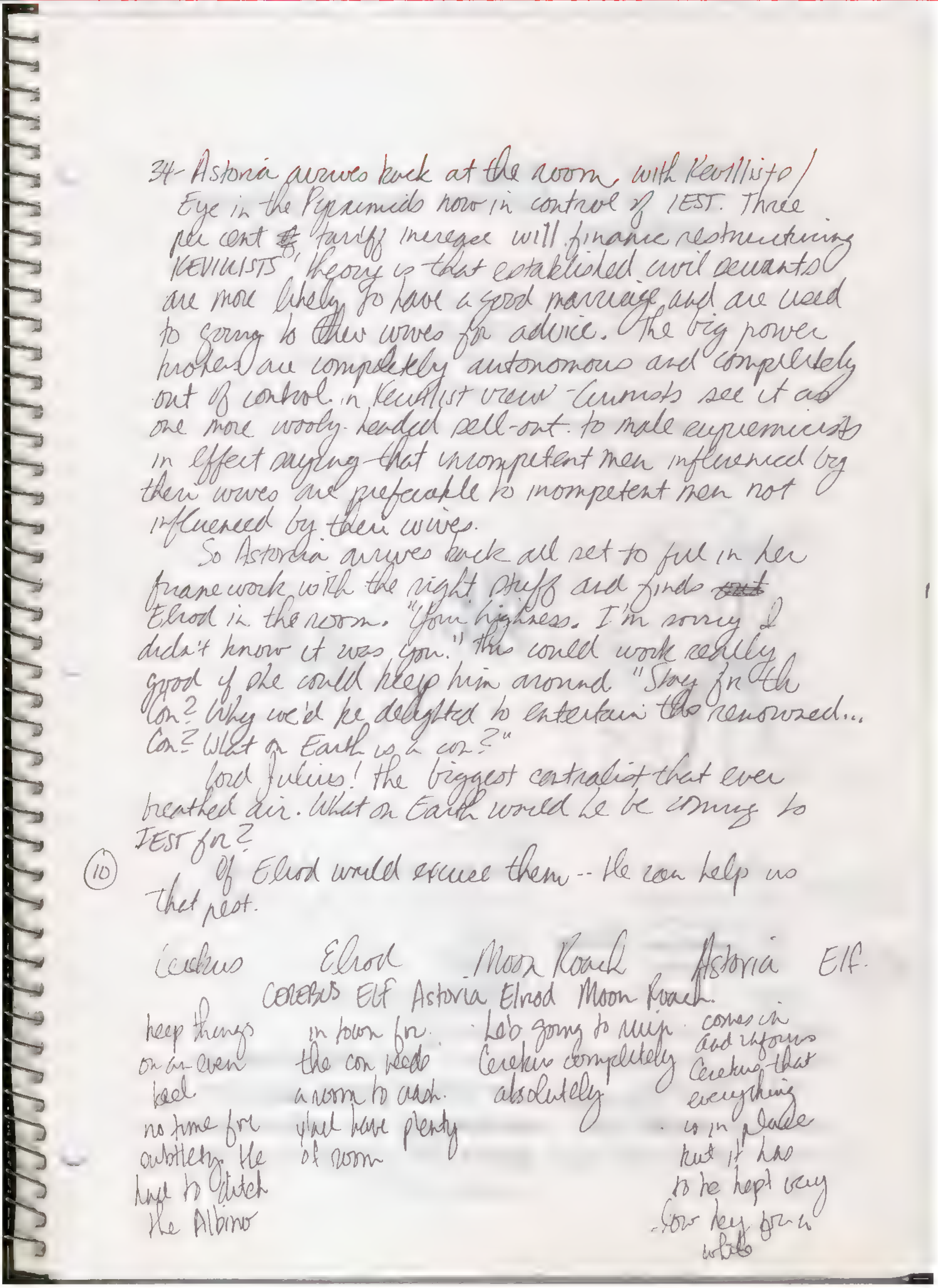
keep things on an even keel no time for subtlety. He has to stick the Albino

in town for the con Dede a room to rash. y'all have plenty of room

Le's going to ruin Cerebus completely absolutely

comes in and informs Cerebus that everything is in place but it has to be kept very low key for a while

HSANB 9/34 - Continuing the thought:
"Astoria arrives back at the room with Kevillists/Eye in the Pyramids now in control of lest. Three percent tariff increases wi.l finance restructuring. Kevil.ists' theory is that established civil servants are more likely to have a good marriage and are to going to their wives for advice. The big power brokers are completely autonomous and completely out of control in [the] Kevillist view.


34- Astoria arrives back at the room with Kevillist to
Eye in the Pyramids now in control of IEST. Three
per cent # tariff increase will finance restructuring
KEVILLISTS" theory is that established civil servants
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one more wooly-headed sell-out to male supremacists
in effect saying that incompetent men influenced by
their wives are preferable to incompetent men not
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So Astoria arrives back all set to fill in her
framework with the right stuff and finds
Elrod in the room. "Your highness. I'm sorry I
didn't know it was you." this could work really
good if she could keep him around "Stay for the
Con? Why we'd be delighted to entertain the renowned...
Con? What on Earth is a Con?"
Lord Julius! the biggest centralist that ever
breathed air. What on Earth would he be coming to
IEST for?
(10) Of Elrod would excuse them -- He can help us
that post.
Cerebus Elrod Moon Roach Astoria Elf.
CEREBUS ELF Astoria Elrod Moon Roach.
keep things on an even keel no time for subtlety. He has to stick the Albino
in town for the con. Let's go to a room to crash. you'll have plenty of room
Let's going to ruin Cerebus completely absolutely
comes in and informs Cerebus that everything is in place but it has to be kept very low key for a while

[i.e. they don't listen to their wives or anyone else]. Cirinists see it as one more wooly-headed sell-out to male supremacists[:] in effect [the Kevillists are saying] that incompetent men influenced by their wives are preferable to incompetent men not influenced by their wives. So Astoria arrives back all set to fill in her framework with the [R]ight [S]tuff [i.e. civil servants who are the most likely to do what their wives tell them to do] and finds Elrod in the room.

'Your Highness. I'm sorry, I didn't know it was you.' [thinking: T]his could work really good if she could keep him around. 'Stay for the Con? Why we'd be delighted to entertain the renowned...'

[Cerebus]: Con? What on earth is a Con?'

Lord Julius! The biggest centralist that ever breathed air. What on earth would he be coming to IEST for?'

ROSEMARY SYNDROME
THIS IS NO DREAM THIS IS REALM
HAPPENING.

LOOK, SON, IF YOU DON'T LIKE
THE ROOM JUST SAY SO! I...
I SAY -- I CAN FIND SOMEONE
ELSE TO STAY WITH
~~GET TO THE~~ KNOCKS HIM OUT

TOP OF PAGE ②

CHARISMATIC?
SEE HOW MANY CONVENTIONEERS YOU ~~CAN MANIPULATE AT ONCE~~ SIMULTANEOUSLY

CAN CONTROL AT ONE TIME.

~~IN YOUR PLEASURE TO CAUSE~~

CELEBUS! LORD JULIUS!
PROPOGANDA MINISTER
WEISSHAUPT! LORD GORGE!
LORD SILVERSPOON!
CONSORT WITH ESTABLISHMENT'S ~~YOUR PEER~~
INFLUENTIAL AND BECOME FAMOUS BY OSMOSIS.

WEALTHY?
MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE POLITICAL INSIDERS BOW TO YOUR EVERY WHIM

~~NOSEY?~~
~~WORKS IN THE HOUSE~~
OPINIONATED?
RESERVE THIS TIME ~~NOT AT ONE OF~~ ONE ~~CONVENTIONS TO SPOUT OFF~~ ~~ON ANYTHING~~ NOW -- ~~WHERE YOU'RE~~ FOR YOUR FAVOURITE VESTED INTEREST.

HSANB 10/34 - "Rosemary Syndrome" [i.e. ROSEMARY'S BABY when she's being impregnated by Lucifer] "This is no dream! This is really happening!" Lord Julius' reaction to what Astoria is doing/has done in lest. He HAS to go to lest.

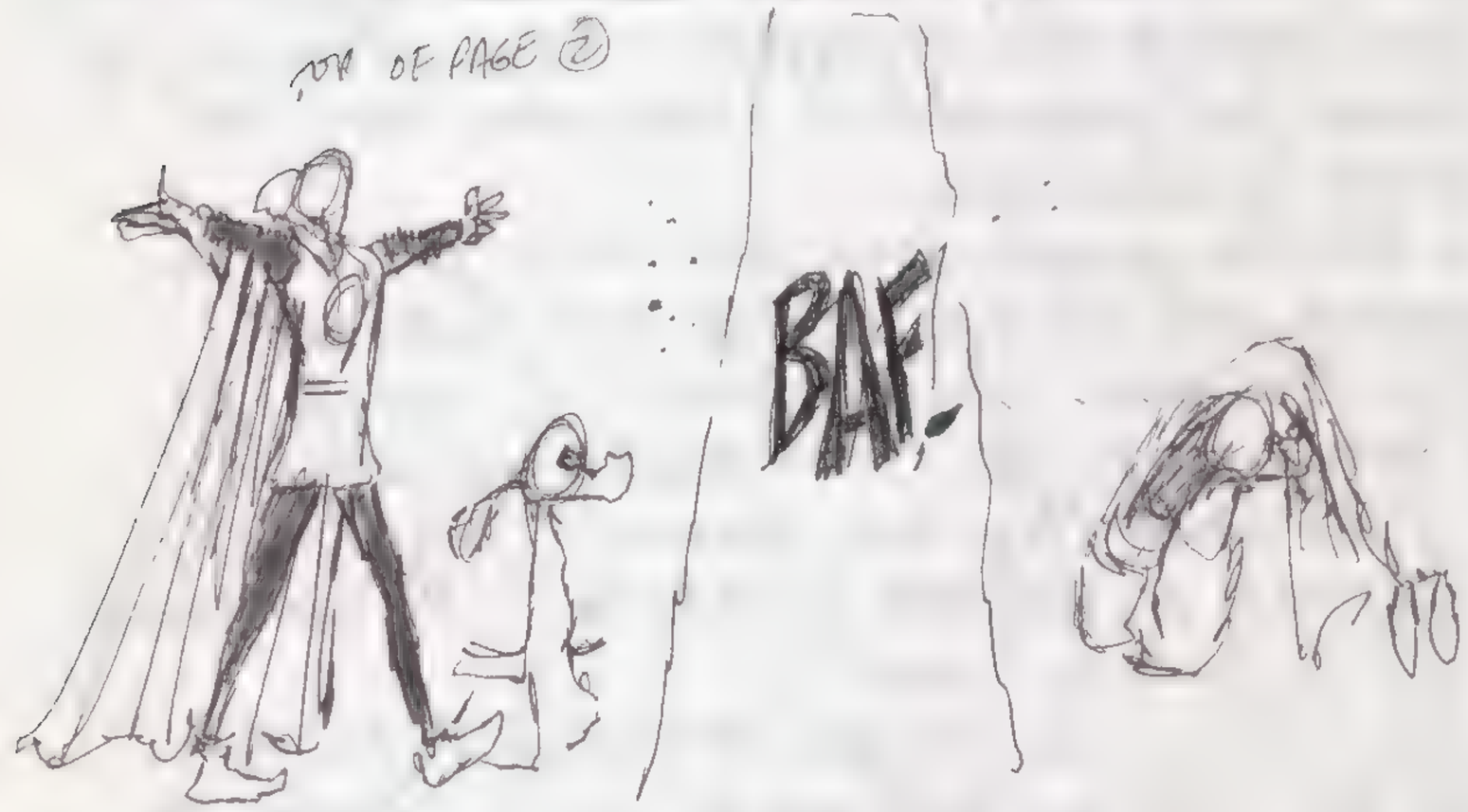
Charles Schulz's dictum: A big part of cartooning is drawing funny pictures. It gives me the top of page 2.

Publicity for Petuniacon [basically Lord Julius parodying what Astoria has just accomplished:] [Are you] charismatic? See how

ROSEMARY SYNDROME
THIS IS NO DREAM THIS IS REALM
HAPPENING.

LOOK, SON, IF YOU DON'T HAVE
THE ROOM JUST SAY SO! I ::
I SAY :: I CAN FIND SOMEONE
ELSE TO STAY WITH
~~OFF TO BAE~~ KNOCKS HIM OUT

TOP OF PAGE ②



CHARISMATIC?
CAN CONTROL AT ONE TIME. SEE HOW MANY CONVENTIONEERS YOU ~~CAN MANIPULATE~~ ~~CONTROL~~ ~~SIMULTANEOUSLY~~
~~PLAYING PUPPETEER CAREER~~
CERBERUS! LORD JULIUS!
PROPOGANDA MINISTER
WEISSHAUPT! LORD GORCE!
LORD SILVERSPOON!
CONSORT WITH ESTARCION'S ~~FOR YOUR FOR~~
INFLUENTIAL AND BECOME FAMOUS ~~BECAUSE BEST~~ FOR YOUR FAVOURITE
BY OSMOSIS.

WEALTHY?
MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE POLITICAL
INSIDERS BOW TO YOUR EVERY
WHIM
~~NOSEY?~~
~~VESTED INTEREST~~
OPINIONATED?
RESERVE DAIS TIME ~~NOW AT ONE OF~~
~~ONE SYMPOSIUMS TO SPOUT OFF~~
~~ON ANYTHING~~ NOW ~~RATHER YOU'RE~~
VESTED INTEREST.

many conventioneers you can control at one time: Cerebus! Lord Julius! Propaganda Minister Weisshaupt! Lord Gorce! Lord Silverspoon! Consort with Estarcion's Influential and Become Famous by Osmosis[!]

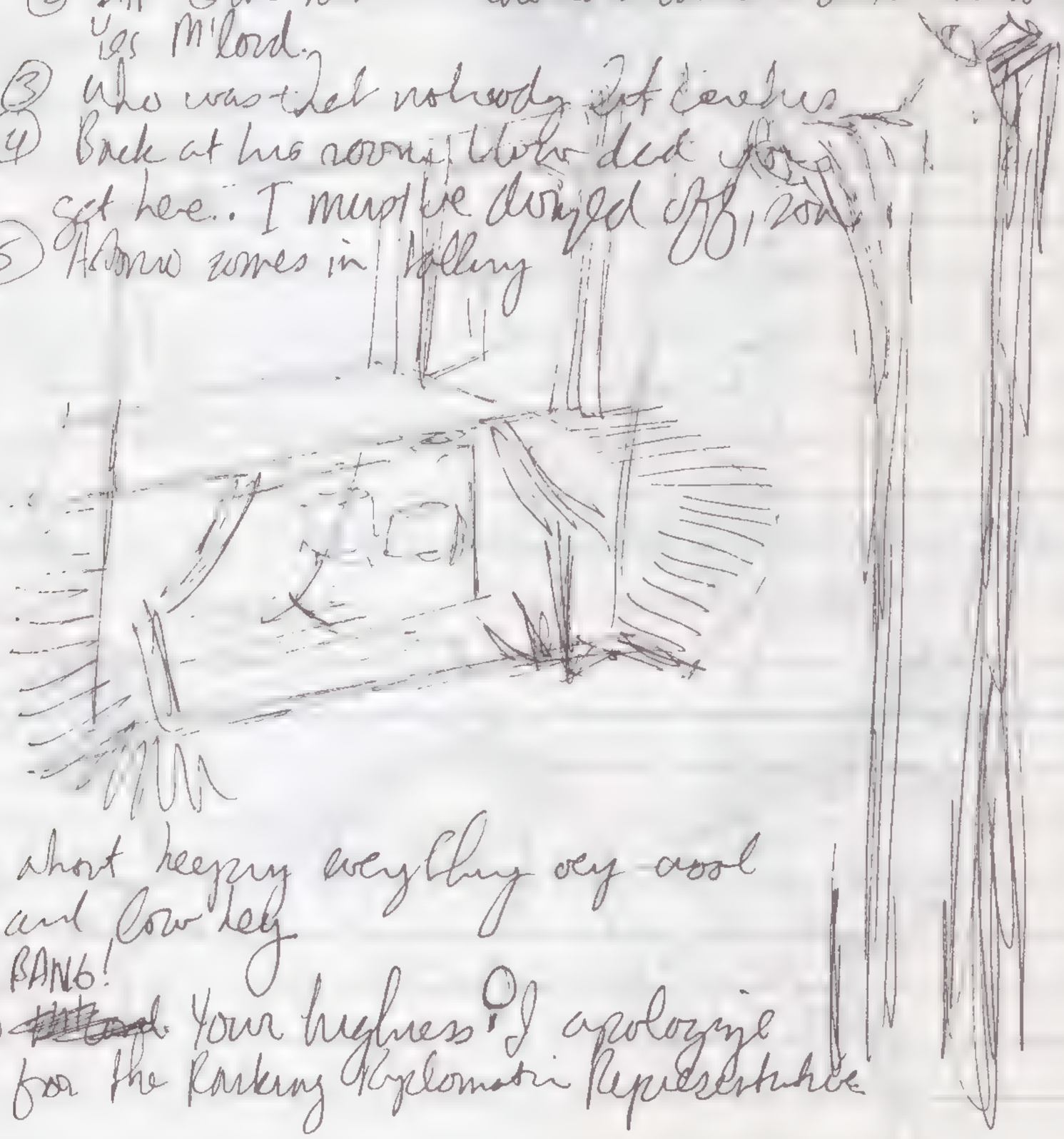
[Are you] Wealthy? Make your favourite political insiders bow to your every whim [! Are you] Opinionated? Reserve dais time now – for your favourite vested interest"

continues on HSANB 11/34

THOUSANDS OF NEW AND USED GOVERNMENT CHARTERS, SECRET DOCUMENTS, CONTRACTS, COMMUNIQUES, MEMOES, PROPOSALS, ~~PAPERS~~, ~~WHITE~~, REPORTS, FILES, LOGS, DIRECTORIES, ACTS, BILLS, AND RED TAPE WILL BE UP FOR BID IN OUR GIANT AUCTION DON'T MISS IT.

GRANTS, WHITE PAPERS,

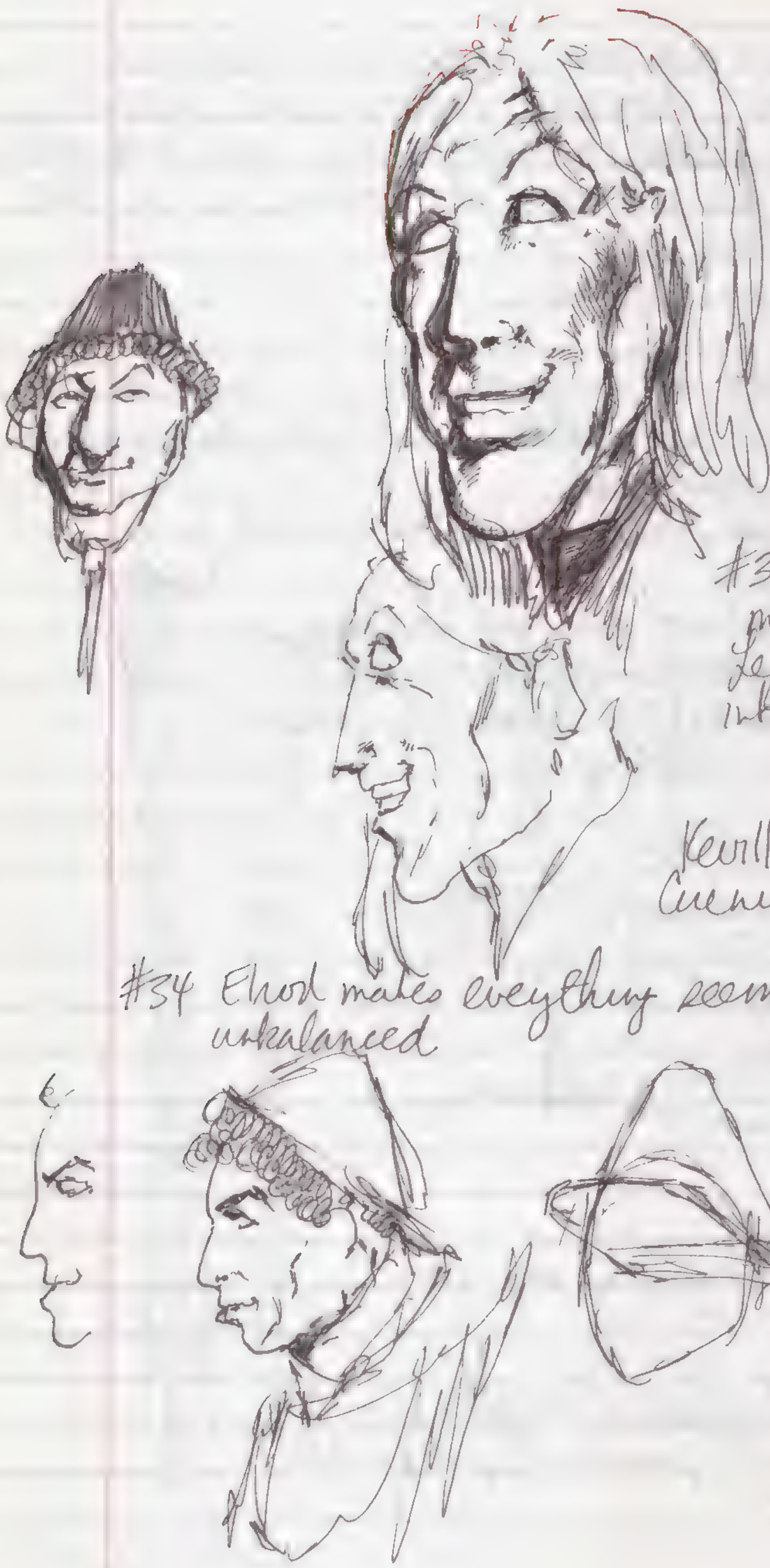
PAGE (1) Elrod out front enthusing about the fun they are going to have -- room parties, food fights, panty raids
When I heard that
(2) BAF Gave him to the cab driver dutch treat
Yes M'lord.
(3) Who was that nobody But Cerebus
(4) Back at his room, Woke dead You
get here.. I must be dosed BB, 20ml
(5) Astoria comes in Yelling



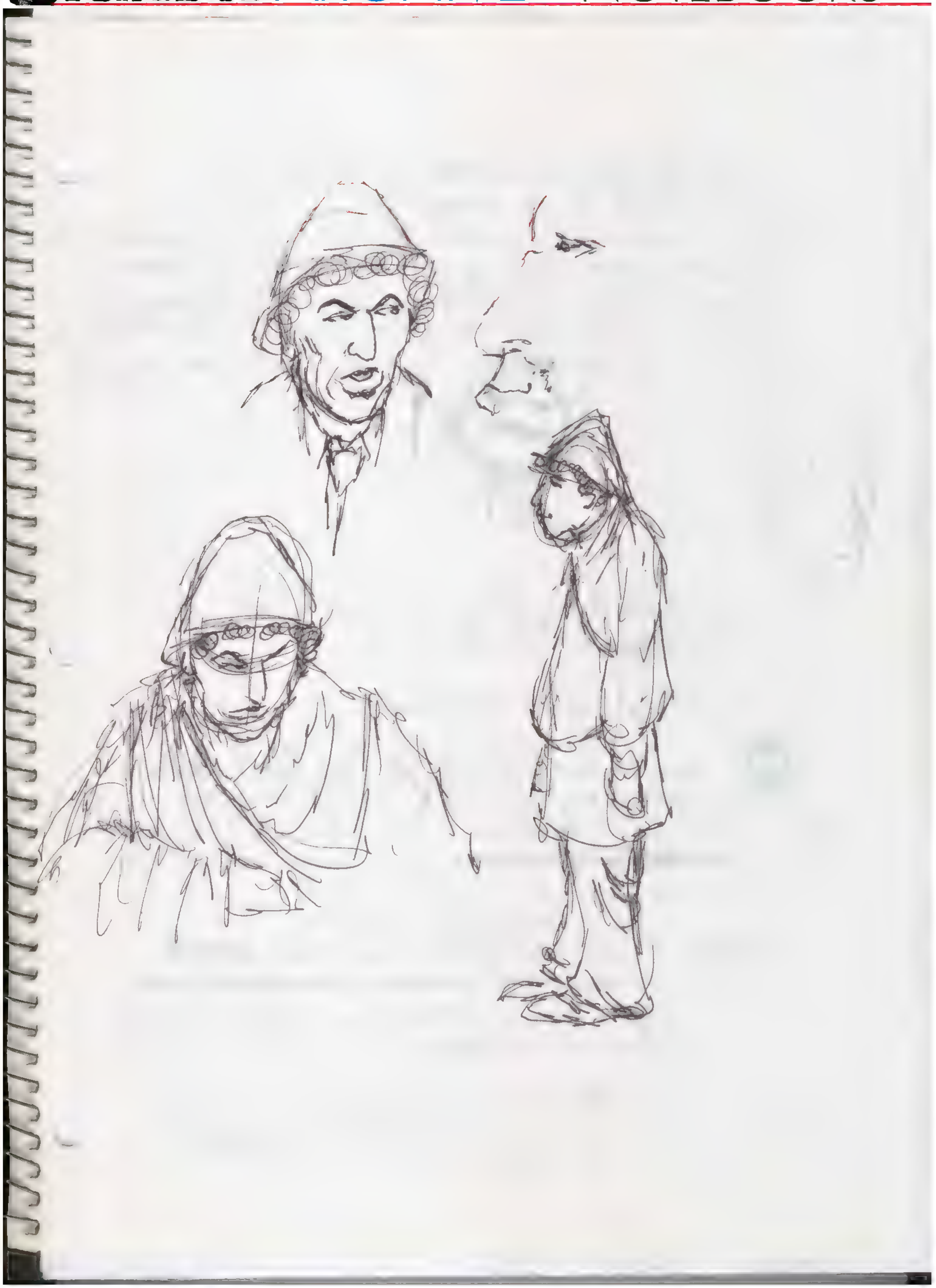
shoot keeping everything very cool and low key
(6) BANG!
(7) ~~Elrod~~ Your highness! I apologize for the Barking Ryklomatic Representative

HSANB 11/34 - "Thousands of New and Used Government Charters, Secret Documents, Contracts, Communiques, Memos, Proposals, Reports, Files, Logs, Directories, Acts, Bills, Red Tape, Grants and White Papers will be up for bid in our giant auction. Don't Miss it [!]"

I really should have found room for some of that as insets on handbills on the splash page segueing into:
"Elrod out front [of the Hotel] enthusing about the fun they are going to have – room parties, food fights, panty raids..."


#34- Astoria wants to make him wealthy Legislature is falling into line.
Feminists - pol ltrial
Cuernsts - social
#34 Elrod makes everything seem unbalanced
sideways
kneeling

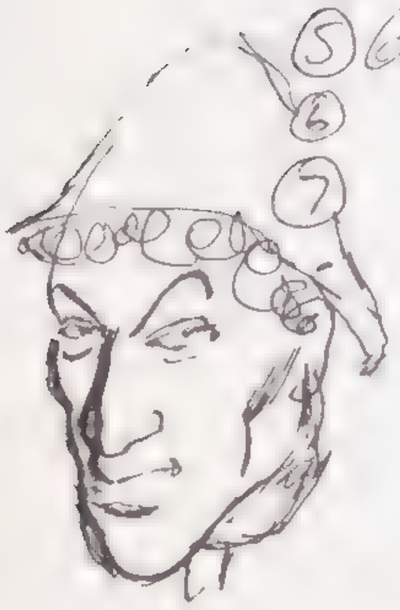
HSANB 12/34 - Time to bring Chico in.



HSANB 13/34 - Not yet, but I had to learn to draw "Duke Leonardi" first.

Elrod gets Cerebus in trouble by coming out of the woodwork at the wrong time.

PAGE (1) Elrod enters babbling about the good time room services. etc.
(2) Cerebus knocks him out gives him to the cab driver.
(3) runs into Brian Wake Malfin in the Lobby. Say waste the
(4) He's in Cerebus' hotel room. How did you get here, right
(5) Goes to open the window they can see you up, right.
(6)
(7)



Good morning I hope you don't mind my barging in like this

Ahh, Astoria my one true love.

(6) opens the window and the Moon Rapid starts to suck him out. He's finished through done with. Astoria won't be able to yell and (7) ~~[illegible] of the fire~~ your brains out of the fire on this one.

goes to leap out the window

~~What~~ I'll go ahead and plan ~~to get a head start to the three legged race~~ I'll find some volunteers for a three legged race in the lobby.

#I..ISAH: I always get a head-start on the festivities,... carrying on that is.

(8)

What's the use... the cootie is right ~~about this~~
~~Even Astoria can't touch her now~~.
Cerebus has been frightly uphill since
he got here. Astoria is probably pleading
to keep Cerebus out of jail right now
"Nonsense, son, the coalition is shattered, but
y'all still have three cabinet ministers and the
speaker of the ~~state~~ Legislature on your side.
With the death of the Exalted Grand Inquisitor
and ~~your~~ the Governor & the Legislature, the
very worst foreing y'all is uncertainty about the
Church's position.
But with the Exalted Grand Inquisitor dead
and the Church hierarchy now heeding a ladies who can
~~told together the Princess forced this~~ rally their
forces in the Legislature...."

~~"Your highness~~

As a matter of fact, son

What do you think Cerebus
should do....
Well, son...
Forget Cerebus said that--
Cerebus is under strict instructions
to keep himself out of trouble until
he's sent back and he's asking
Elrod for advice.
~~As a matter of~~ All I can tell you son, is that
if there was ever a better time to
double your best egg
~~which I say which~~ shut up Alkino
that's I say - that's just a conservative
estimate sonb-- maybe or 4

HSANB 15/34 - Elrod as informed political insider. It had to be done all in one go and it had to be funny and informative. THERE'S a writing challenge.

ELROD: As a matter of fact, son...

CEREBUS: What do you think Cerebus should do...[?]

(8)

What's the use... the cootie is right ~~about this~~
~~Even Astoria can't touch her either~~.
Cerebus has been frightfully uphill since he got here. Astoria is probably pleading to keep Cerebus out of jail right now
"Nonsense, son, the coalition is shattered, but y'all still have three cabinet ministers and the speaker of the ~~state~~ Legislature on your side. With the death of the Exalted Grand Inquisitor and ~~your~~ the Governor & the Legislature, the very worst fourth y'all is uncertainty about the Church's position.

But with the Exalted Grand Inquisitor dead and the Church hierarchy now heeding a ladies who can ~~told together the Princess function that~~ rally their forces in the Legislature...."

~~"Your highness~~

As a matter of fact, son

What do you think Cerebus should do....

Well, son...
Forget Cerebus said that--
Cerebus is under strict instructions to keep himself out of trouble until Astoria gets back and he's asking Elrod for advice.

~~As a matter of~~ All I can tell you son, is that if there ever a better time to double your best egg

~~which I say which~~ shut up Alkino that's I say - that's just a conservative estimate sonb-- maybe or 4

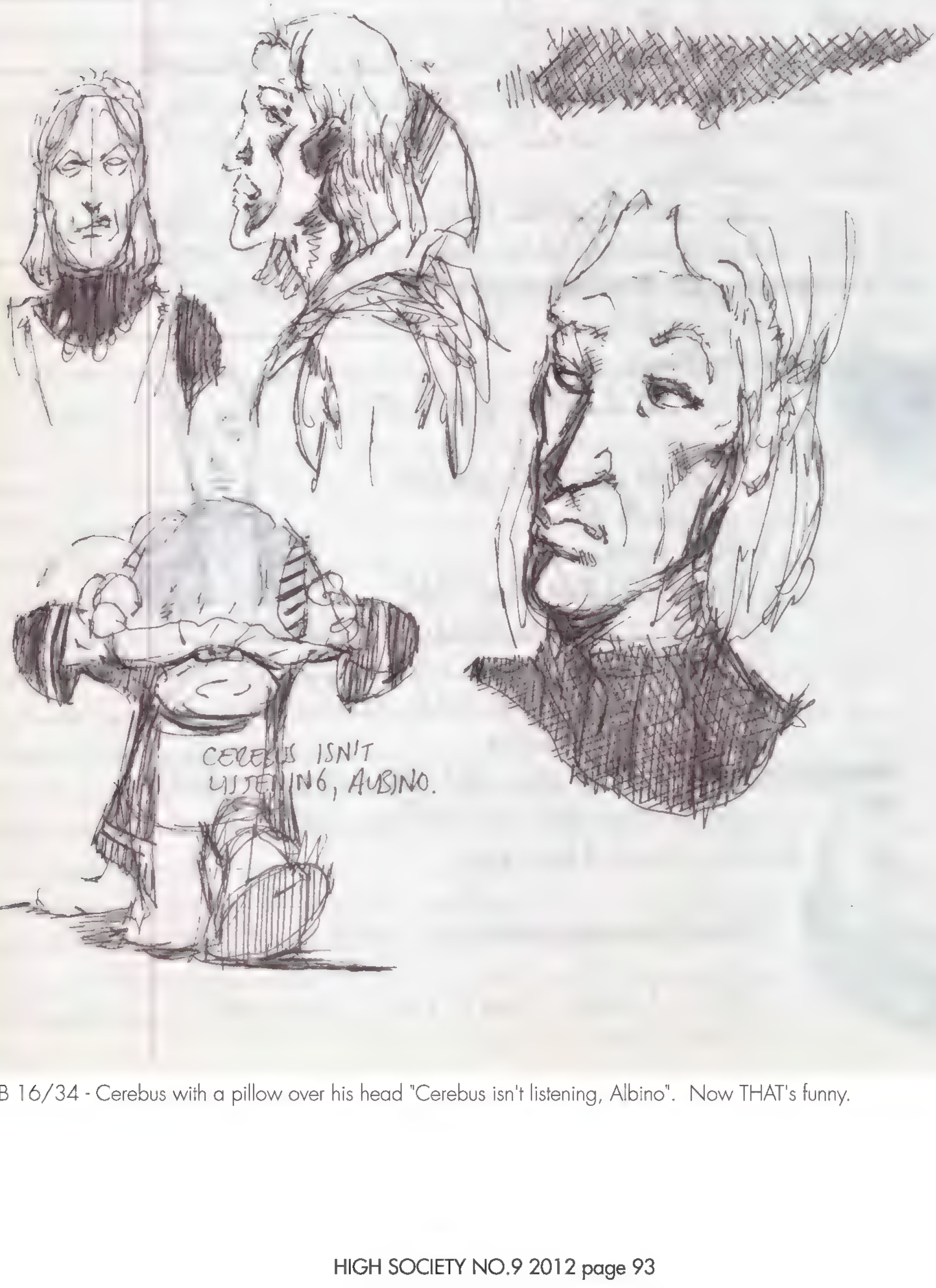
ELROD: Well, son...
CEREBUS: Forget Cerebus said that.
CEREBUS: [thought] Cerebus is under strict instructions to keep himself out of trouble until Astoria gets back and he's asking ELROD for advice.
Ended up not having room for that. Too bad.

quadruple are actually more likely in the short term.

shut up, Alkino.

Why for as small an investment as three hundred crowns. inside of twenty-four hours you could earn.

P.S.



HSANB 16/34 - Cerebus with a pillow over his head "Cerebus isn't listening, Albino". Now THAT's funny.

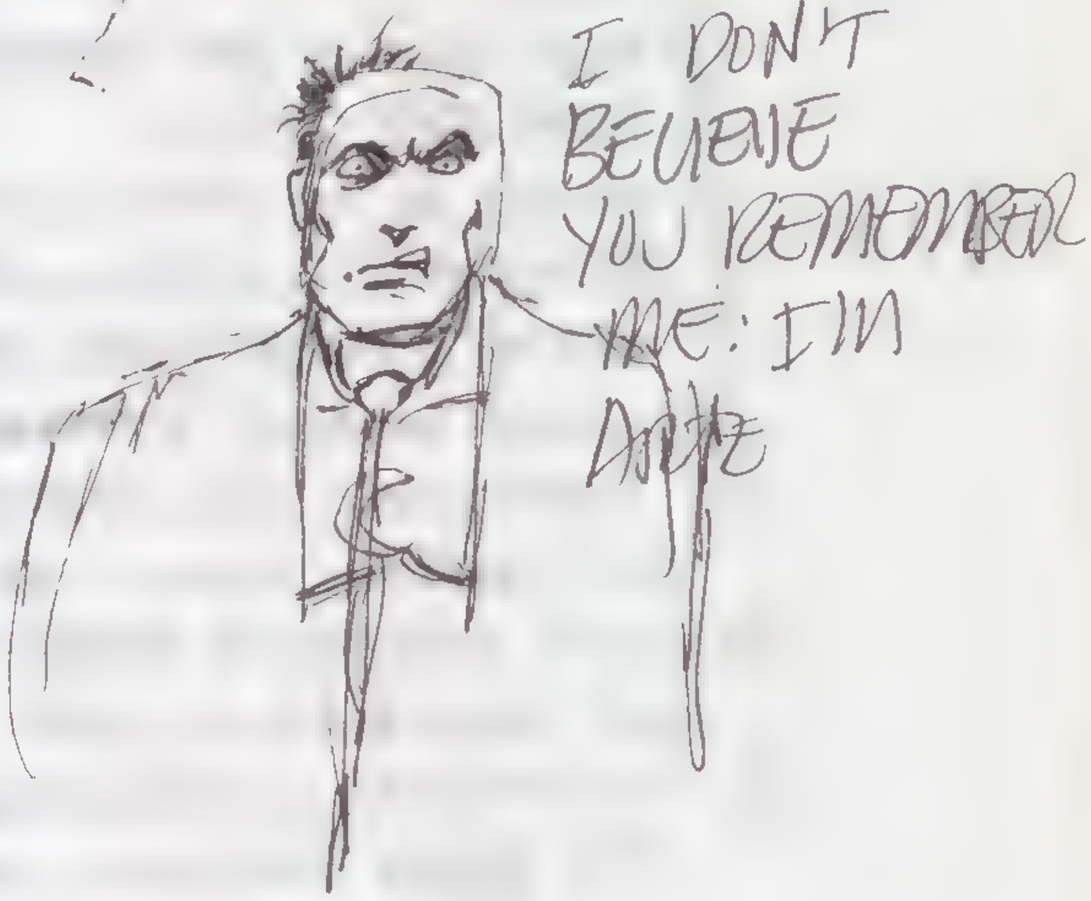
(9) Locks Elrod in a closet. Cerebus needs a drink goes down to the bar. Red Sophia is there with her husband who asks

~~Lady~~ the Countess Sophia of Tansubal

AFTER ALL I'M ALMOST TWENTY YEARS OLD

SUE WHISPERS A LEWD PROPOSITION TO CEREBUS.

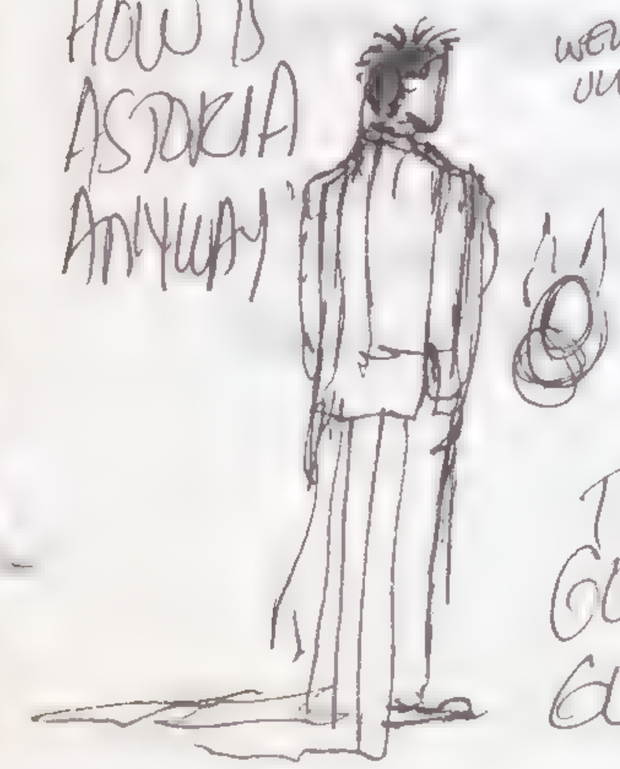
HOW DO YOU DO, M'LORD



I DON'T BELIEVE YOU REMEMBER ME: I'M ASTORIA

HOW IS ASTORIA ANYWAY

WELL OH



THAT'S VERY GOOD GOOD GOOD TO HEAR

(10) (11) WAS TO GO BACK UPSTAIRS.

HSANB 17/34 - The problem with this page "Locks Elrod in a closet. Cerebus needs a drink. Goes down to the bar" is that it had too many transitions that would eat up valuable space. Missed out on:

Red Sophia as The Countess Sophia of Tansubal in the hotel bar with her husband. No, Red Sophia didn't fit in yet. I didn't know why, but she didn't.

The Moon Roach, unhinged by the Cerebus and Astoria

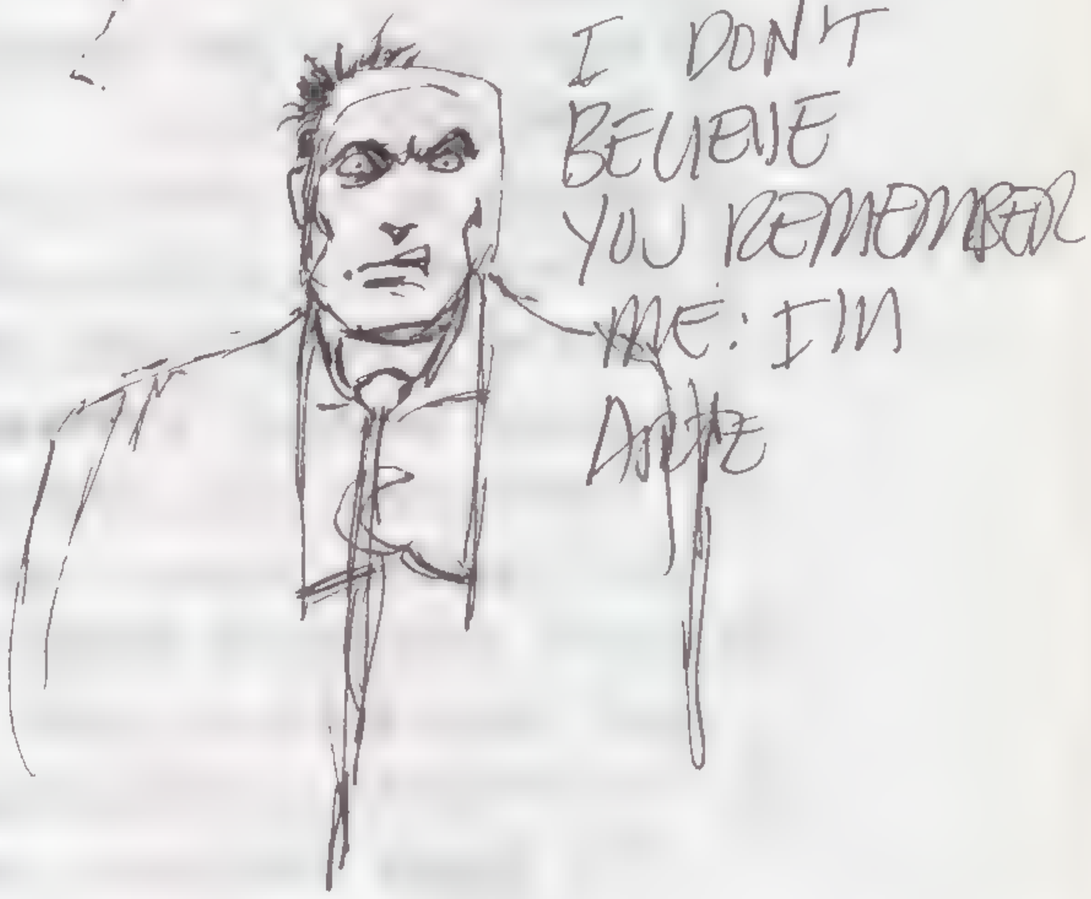
(9) Locks Elrod in a closet. Cerebus needs a drink goes down to the bar. Red Sophia is there with her husband who asks

~~Lady~~ the Countess Sophia of Tarsuhal

AFTER ALL I'M ALMOST TWENTY YEARS OLD

SUE WHISPERS A LEWD PROPOSITION TO CEREBUS.

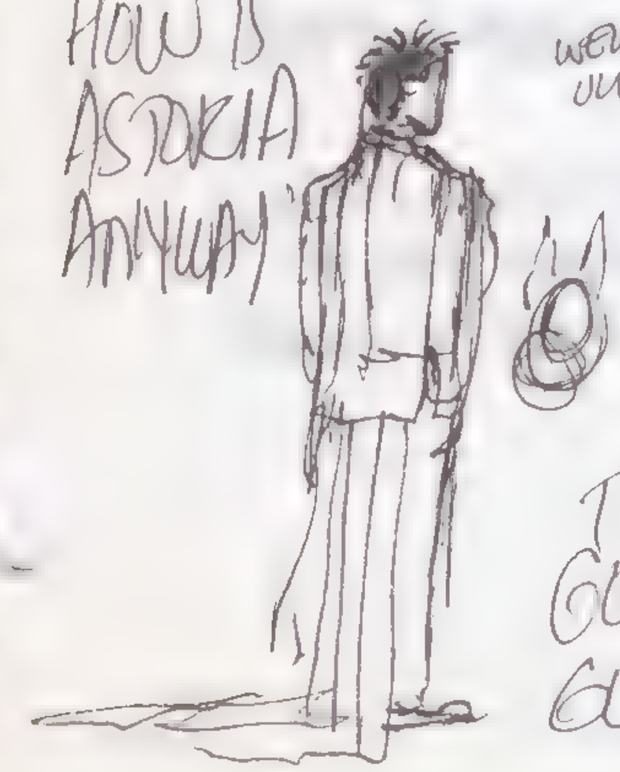
HOW DO YOU DO, M'LORD



I DON'T BELIEVE YOU REMEMBER ME: I'M ARTEMIS

HOW IS ASTORIA ANYWAY

WELL UH



THAT'S VERY GOOD GOOD GOOD TO HEAR

(10) (11) WAS TO GO BACK UPSTAIRS.

situation, meeting Cerebus in the bar in half-Moon Roach half-civilian Artemis Strong identity (i.e. his costume visible under his jacket and tie, his cape hanging out the back of his jacket).
ARTEMIS: HOW DO YOU DO, M'LORD. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU REMEMBER ME: I'M ARTEMIS STRONG. HOW IS ASTORIA ANYWAY.
CEREBUS: Well, uh...
ARTEMIS: THAT'S VERY GOOD GOOD GOOD TO HEAR.

(12) ELROD SAYING GOODBYE TO ASTORIA.

CEREBUS: I CAN EXPLAIN....

ASTORIA: WHATEVER. YOU TOLD ME I WOULDN'T BELIEVE ANYWAY... SUFFICE TO SAY I'M IMPRESSED WITH ~~THE NEIGHBORS~~ YOUR FRIENDS. high class

CEREBUS: What? oh, yes... CEREBUS ... high class?

congratulations? congratulations? pretty good alley.

told him we were married.

~~SANDRA SPECTER~~ ASTORIA: Everything's fine... the Legislature passed the tariffs bill by a two-thirds majority.

(12)
1. ELROD
2. GIVES HIM TO CAB DRIVER
3. + BRAN MAK MUFIN
4. ARRIVES IN HIS ROOM ELROD IS THERE
5. ~~HE~~ GOING TO WINDOW OPENS IT AND =GAH!=
6. COOTIE PRACTICE HIM OUT. TO ELROD
7. COOTIE WEAVES ~~E~~ CEREBUS GOES TO COMPETITION
8. THAT'S OKAY, SON... PEOPLE TO LOOK UP WHAT'S TRUE USE.. COOTIE'S RIGHT. NOT NECESSARILY
9. ELROD'S SOLILOQUY CEREBUS SURPRISED ALBINO KNOWS, ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF.
10. ASTORIA (WINK WINK) (NUDGE NUDGE) LEAVING SON... YOU KNOW ELROD OF MELLINBONE NO! WELL, CEREBUS HAS MET HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES
11. POLITICIAN
12. POLITICIAN KNOCK KNOCK

HSANB 18/34 - Making progress – I had the transition getting Elrod out of the room and a terse phrase point form outline up to page 12 (more or less).

#36 CEREBUS: Why did you come to see Cerebus?
JAKA! Because

If you won't acknowledge what our relationship is ... how we feel.

You can at least ~~speak to the point~~ leave me what we had once.

Don't tell me what happened unless you are prepared to tell the truth

Cerebus was ~~drugged~~ drugged:

Why have you come to see Cerebus.
I wanted to find out if you would see me or not. Why did you agree to see me?
Because you came to see Cerebus
You remember.
~~Yes.~~
~~How could~~
~~This and that. A couple of months later~~ it
~~Yes~~
Yes. Some of it. Cerebus was drugged.
I wish you wouldn't say that as if it explains everything.
Cerebus was drugged and he wasn't himself
~~Who was you then~~

HSANB 19/34 - I had been writing the "When is Jaka coming back?" issue in my head for some time and finally cracked and started writing down what I knew of it even though I was still on No.34 and that wasn't until No.36.
CEREBUS: Cerebus was drugged.
JAKA: I wish you wouldn't say that as if it explains everything.

#36 CEREBUS: Why did you come to see Cerekus?
JAKA! Because

If you won't acknowledge what our relationship is ... how we feel.

You can at least ~~[illegible]~~ leave me what we had once.

Don't tell me what happened unless you are prepared to tell the truth

Cerekus was ~~[illegible]~~ drugged:

Why have you come to see Cerekus.
I wanted to find out if you would see me or not. Why did you agree to see me?
Because you came to see Cerekus
You remember.
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
Yes. Some of it. Cerekus was drugged.
I wish you wouldn't say that as if it explains everything.
Cerekus was drugged and he wasn't himself
~~[illegible]~~

It DID explain everything but Jaka wouldn't actually "go there" because she would know instinctively what Cerebus' answer would have been:
CEREBUS: Cerebus was drugged and he wasn't himself.
Which would have made it worse.

this hotel is a lot fancier than that
tavern you were dancing in.
Yes. Yes, it is.
You want to see something?
I suppose so.
Almost a thousand rooms. Cash.
Cerebus has a lot of money
I see.
It would be a thousand even, but
Cerebus spent fifty bribing a taxi
driver.
[redacted]
I see.
Cerebus gets all his meals free. Same
with his ale. He's got seven rooms
to himself and a kid the size of that
room you were living in when he met
you.
I see. You must be very happy.
Huh? Oh, yeah. A while ago Cerebus was going
to get into a taxi and this perfumed fop tried
to beat Cerebus up. When he found out who
[redacted] Cerebus was

#34
(10) losing himself You don't - I say - you don't have
to drop a horse on [redacted] this alone.
I understand, son,
diminutive entrepreneur with bunny
fur fetish [redacted] sharing accommodations
with

HSANB 20/34 - a few more lines from No.36 (it was like shooting ducks in a barrel) and then back to No.34:

ELROD: "I understand, son. [A] diminutive entrepreneur with [a] bunny fur fetish sharing accommodations with"
I should have found a good way to finish the thought.

by the way you might want to take a look through Elvs, Li'l Little magnolia blossom...

~~I would look forward to~~ I shall keep a light burning in mah window until that we meet.

(11) Asterion everything went fine. the vote has been delayed for a ~~week~~ few days Cerebus is thinking about how well he did while she was gone You thought Cerebus would get into trouble. Well Cerebus did just fine. Maybe you'll remember that the next time you feel a certain that everything comes to a standing halt anytime Cerebus is left in charge what about cancelling my appointments

What?

I asked you to cancel all my appointments

(12) returns to the room. Four different cancelled appointments in debt, under suspicion

#36 (FEBRUARY, 1982

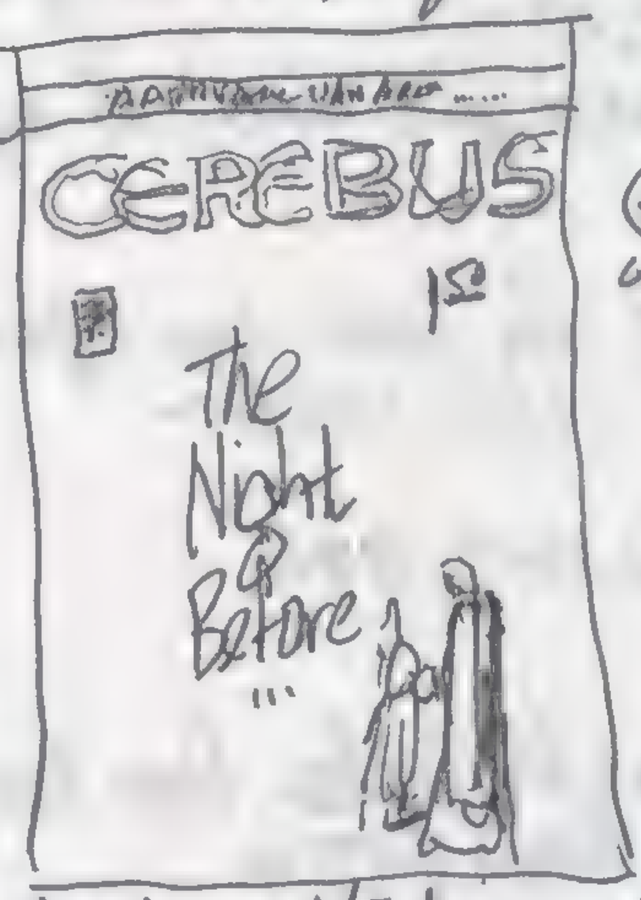
29- ELF
30 Weland Mc Madden. Moon Ranch
31 Moon Ranch Astoria
32 Astoria Cerebus ELF Mad
33 Astoria Cerebus Moon Ranch. Elf Revenge
34 Cerebus Elrod Roc MacMurtin
Moon Road Astoria have to ask you for
35 Two days Before that 1000 robins.
36 Jaka back
37 PETUNIA CON DAH DAKE

HSANB 21-22/34 - Skip right to the "cancelled appointments" pay-off on the last two issues.

38 PETUNIACON DAY TWO
39 PETUNIACON DAY THREE
40

(7) Cerebus gong after cashé
(8) Remembers Elrod. deepeur.
(9) Elrod reassures him
(10) wink wink nudge nudge
(11) Aren't you going to ask Cerebus if he got himself into trouble Mm? Oh Yes. Last House of Tavern is it? Mm? Yeah
(12) You cancelled all my appointments
(13) EXCEPT FOR THAT CEREBUS DID REAL GOOD.
(14) About one hour later All the things that went wrong! pressure Cerebus death! cancel his appointments

we owe 500 accounts. I hope you don't mind paying for your mistake



Gradually gain up his 500 accounts

(15) Cerebus reads a drink goes to the bar... moaning to himself about how much money he lost.
(16) (17) Arkenzo Bthorg comes in with his costume barely covered.
(18) Shot up here, you're attracting attention. starts dissociating into his superheroic personalities..
(19) (20) Astoria reading about the Petunia Con

HSANB 21-22/34 - Skip right to the "cancelled appointments" pay-off on the last two issues.

38 PETUNIACON DAY TWO
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(12) You cancelled all my appointments
(13) EXCEPT FOR THAT CEREBUS DID
REAL GOOD.
(14) About one hour later
All the things that went wrong! pressure Cerebus death! I cancel the appointments

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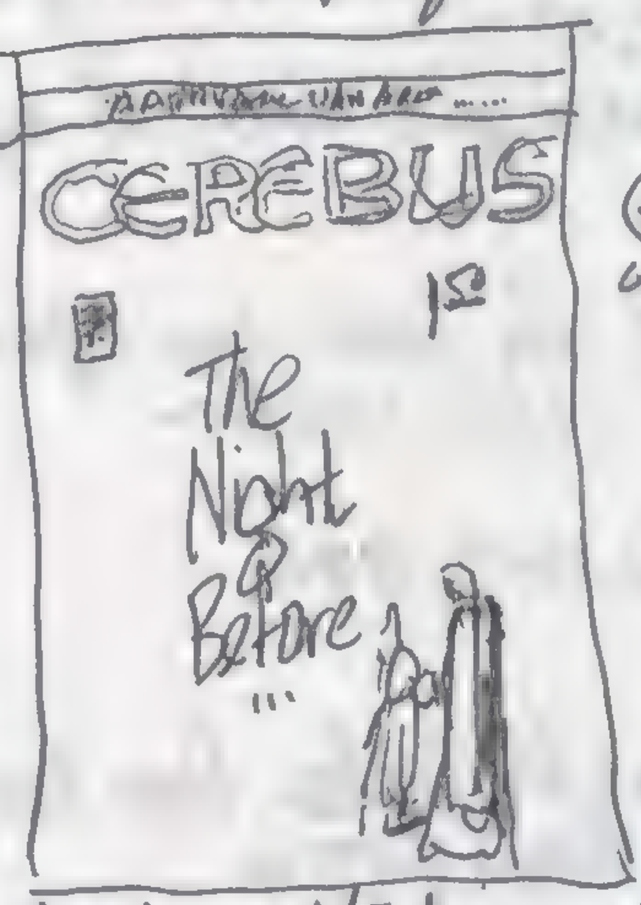


Gradually gain up his 500 accounts

(15) Cerebus reads a drink goes to the bar... meaning to himself about how much money he lost.
(16) (17) Artemis Before comes in with his costume barely covered.
(18) Shut up boy, you're attracting attention. starts dissociating into his alternative personalities..
(19) (20) Astoria reading about the Petunia Con

HSANB 22/34 - That was when I decided to drop the sequence with Artemis in the bar. I needed to get the story hurtling forward if I was going to have space for Petuniacon and the election campaign.
At the same time, I was incredibly focussed. Working on No.34, a could do a sketch of the cover of No.36 and think, "Yes. No.36 is actually going to happen."

PAGE (17) Where am I going to get the money?
I'm glad you asked that. Actually
we have four options
① You can give me back half of the
money I gave you yesterday to
cover the debt, or ~~four~~
② ~~You can~~ refuse to give me the
~~money, then look and insist~~
~~that you go to the~~ ~~bank~~
~~and withdraw~~ the money
~~I deposited for me~~ default on

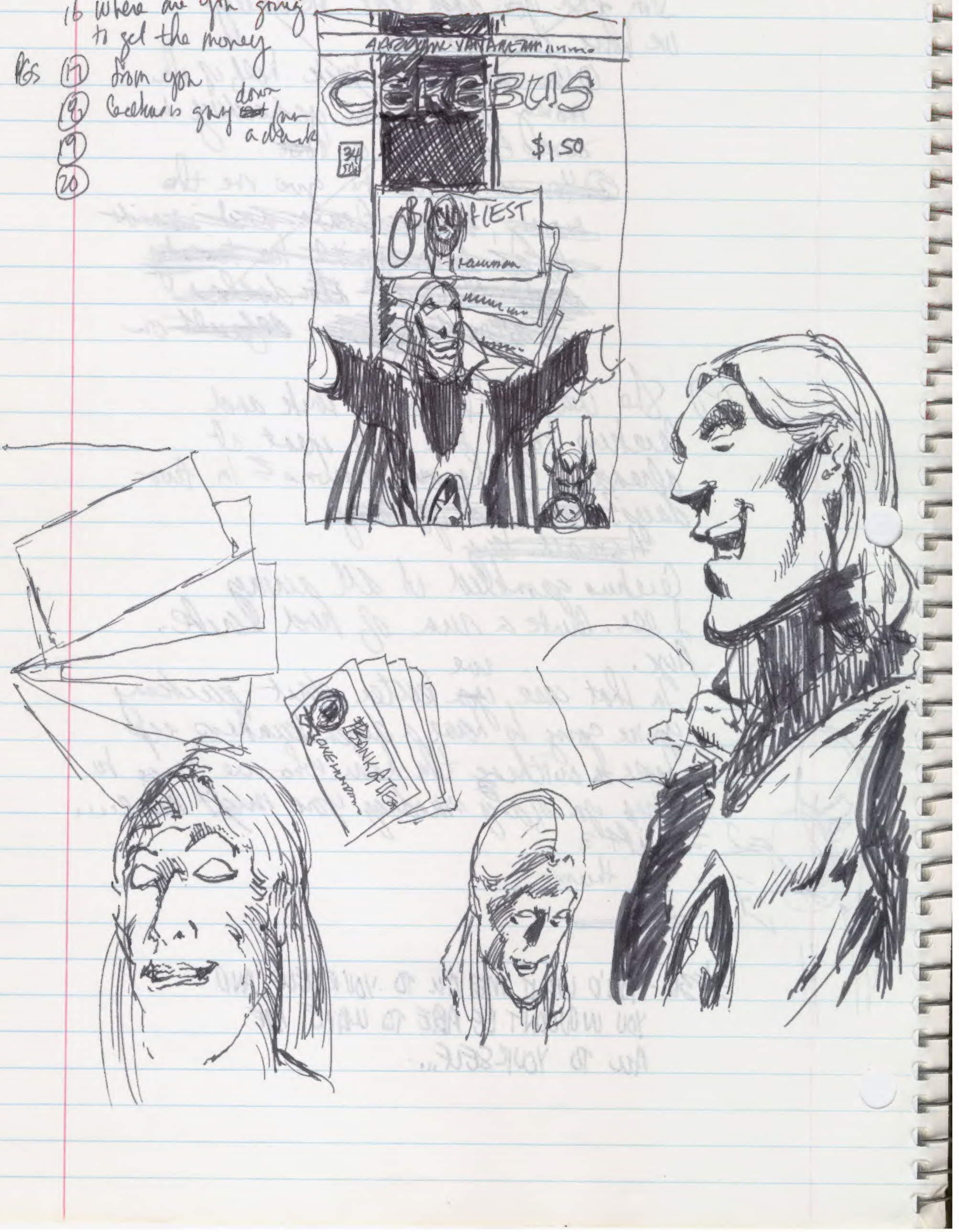
(17) She wants the money back and
Cerebus tells her he's spent it
already. A thousand crowns? In two
days? ~~What did you buy~~
~~A small town~~
Cerebus gambled it all away
I see. Quite a run of bad luck..
Aix.
In that case, ~~you~~ we better start packing
you're going to have a dozen bankers up
here ~~& mothers~~ the town who are going to
sue you for any shoddy work you might have....

=2= Wilt! =

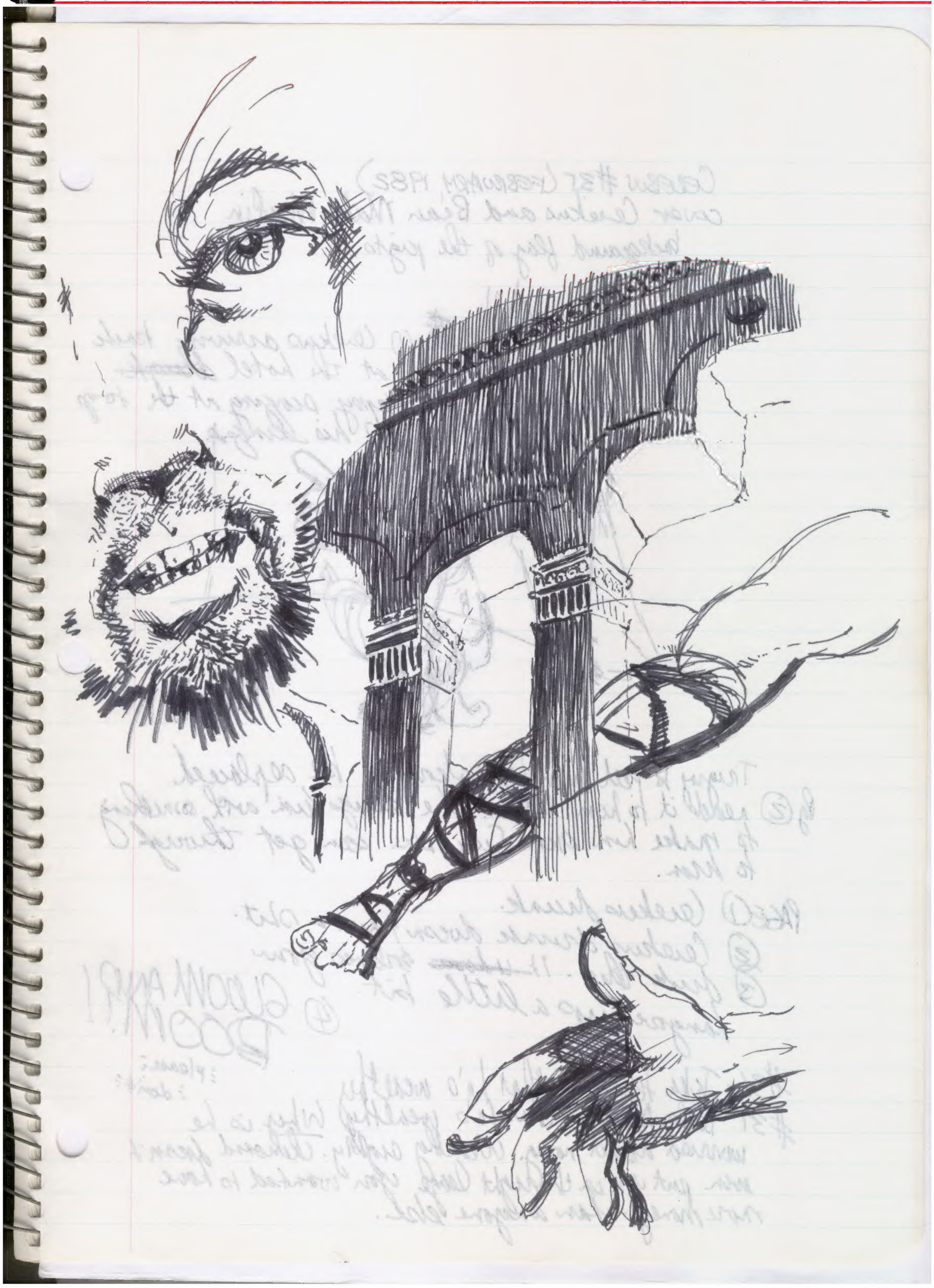
thump

#36 - YOU'D WANT ME ALL TO YOURSELF AND YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HAVE ME ALL TO YOURSELF...

HSANB 23/34 - Realizing I was "dawdling" too much, I cut Cerebus trying to lie his way out of giving Astoria the thousand crowns.
"#36 [JAKA:] You'd want me all to yourself and you wouldn't be able to have me all to yourself."
This also would explain everything about why "Jaka and Cerebus" wouldn't work and is, therefore, also a "don't go there" for Jaka.



HSANB 24/34 - I definitely needed to relax – I was over 160 pages into comics' first 500-page graphic novel. I didn't have as much room as I had been picturing but I did know – roughly – where I was going and how I was going to get there. And I was already further along than anyone had gotten before. I needed to be "in the moment" which is why I did a far more developed cover sketch than I had done previously. Be here now.



HSANB 25/34 - And I had developed some definite drawing "chops". I was getting good at inking textures.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY